Missing 411

IDAHO

•STATE SERIES•

●Unexplained Disappearances●

DAVID PAULIDES

Missing 411

Idaho

DAVID PAULIDES

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Introduction

When I was in college, I took an economy class that dealt with potatoes and the State of Idaho. This was my first formal introduction to the state, which is the 14th largest in the USA by size and the 12th largest in population, something I did not realize until recently.

In 2020, Idaho exported 3.4 billion dollars-worth of goods around the world. 7.8% of the total exports were solar-powered semi-conductors and photovoltaic cells.

The gem state has always been known for its outstanding natural resources and, more specifically, its high ground content of silver, gold, and other mined minerals.

One of the most significant name associations with the state is JR Simplot and their production of potatoes for some of the most prominent fast-food restaurants in the world.

When I was in my thirties, my cousin moved his family to Boise and

went to work for Hewlett Packard. When he was working for the electronics firm in Palo Alto and felt the move would make for a better life for his family, I think he was right. We visited Boise several times and truly loved the town and the outdoor activities that were available in a very close drive. His family bought a vacation home in McCall that set the stage for the perfect family getaway.

Boise has gotten highly populated in recent years, but that leaves the remainder of the state to occupy. So when I was looking to move out of Colorado, Idaho was #2 on my list, right behind Montana.

In my world of researching missing people, the cases in Idaho are much denser than they are in Montana. Idaho has a very defined desert environment in the area of Craters of the Moon National Monument, and it also has the high mountains with gorgeous lakes and high peaks feel.

One significant di erence I found in Idaho and Montana versus Colorado and California is the people's attitude. I was recently in Idaho for several days and made it a point to get out of the car and speak to people in remote areas. Everyone I met in these areas was very polite, hospitable, and caring; it was refreshing.

Many of the areas I visited were not aware of missing cases that were almost in their backyard. In addition, several of the locations we visited were highly rural, very small in population, and a significant part of the population were ranchers and farmers.

One question that readers may ask is, why write a book about Idaho? As I stated earlier, Idaho was my #2 state in line with where I would move. The area, people, geography, and disappearances all intrigued me.

Many of the disappearances that I had researched in the past were some of the strangest imaginable that happened in some of the most remote locations in North America. However, the diversity of the people involved in the cases was a very solid mix of America. The disappearances included ranchers, farmers, retired United States Forest Ranger, filmmakers, hunters, and people who represented America's heart. Besides my fundamental interest in the state, the number of cases for a state the physical size of Idaho is significant. Furthermore, the facts surrounding these disappearances will challenge the reader's intellectual ability to understand and solve.

I would like readers to keep a pencil close to you while you read the

stories. Take notes on unique parts of each incident and attempt to remember what ties all of these together. If you remember something from your past, that resonates with what I wrote, put a note down next to the story.

Idaho Facts

Largest Cities:

Boise 229,993

Meridian 114,161

Nampa 89,576

Idaho Falls 64,618

Caldwell 62.487

Pocatello 56,637

Coeur D'Alene 54,822

Twin Falls 51,165

Post Falls 39,452

Lewiston 32,978

National Parks/ Monuments

Yellowstone

Craters of the Moon

Haggerman Fossil Beds

2.020 Consensus

Population 1,787,065

Demographics

White: 93%

Hispanic or Latino 12.8%

Black or African .9%

Native Alaska or Native Indian 1.7%

Asian 1.6%

Households 630,000

Households with Broadband Internet 83%

Median Household Income $55,785

Total Employers 50,547

Total Employment 616,778

Largest Employers

Micron

Albertsons

Regional Medical Centers St. Alphonsus & St. Lukes

Idaho Power

Hewlett Packard

Panera Bread

Boise Cascade

Land Area 83,557 Square Miles

Capital- Boise

Statehood: July 3, 1890

Highest Point: Mount Borah- 12.662’

Lowest Elevation- 738’, Lewiston

Water Area: 823 Square Miles

River Miles: 3500

State Bird: Mountain Bluebird

State Tree: Western White Pine

State Fruit: Wild Huckleberry

State Fish: Cutthroat Trout

State Gem: Garnet

State Motto: Be Eternal

Registered Voters 983,716

2020 Presidential Election Results Donald Trump 554,119 63.9%

Joe Biden 287,021 33.1%

Profile Points

If someone read twenty search and rescue reports, you'd have a general understanding of a handful of disappearances. If you have read eight thousand cases, your view of the topic is much di erent. There was a time when I was reading these cases that I started to remember recurring facts. I put these reports in my living room until I had many large stacks. After combing through the stories, I decided to call these facts profile points. In much the same way a criminal profiler classifies crimes, these disappearances are now categorized and identified through a series of common denominators, profile points. These categories have become a cornerstone of our research and are generally used to vet cases for inclusion.

Canine Cannot Find a Scent.

In nearly 99% of the cases I have documented, Bloodhounds brought to the point where the victim was last seen cannot find a scent, aren't interested in tracking, or seem oblivious to the smell. As a former member of a law enforcement SWAT team with the canine unit attached to our division, I can guarantee that these dogs love their job and relish tracking people. So, when I first encountered the anomaly of dogs not finding a scent or not being willing to follow, I thought it might be an isolated issue. Yet, this is one of the most prevalent profile points in the cases we have identified.

No tracks

In the area that the victim was last seen, professional trackers brought to the scene cannot find a trail of tracks.

Weather

In the vast majority of the cases highlighted in the Missing 411 books, the weather has a significant impact on the rescue or recovery of the victim. The weather seems to take a turn for the worse, just as the person is missing or after they disappeared. Weather issues include blizzards, wind, fog, rain, snow, hail, dust storms, freezing cold and hot temperatures. When you first start to read about this, your natural reaction is that it's bad luck. After reading ten books and seeing the scenario replicate itself time after time, you'll be stunned. I have hundreds of readers comment that this almost appears to be a manipulation of the weather.

Victims Found in an Area Previously Searched

In Missing 411: The Devil's in the Detail, I present a table showing dozens of cases where the missing person was found in an area previously searched. Sometimes the location of the recovery had been searched dozens of times. In one instance, the searchers had taken the same trail hundreds of times over the week, hiking to where they believed the victim was located. One day of the search, a tree had fallen across the path, and the young victim was found lying on it. Nobody could explain the perplexing scenario. In Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I presented several cases where remote vehicles, divers, etc., searched a body of water. The victim was then found precisely where searchers had just left. Many readers have stated that it appears the victim has been placed there to be found. In the past few years, other researchers have told us that they think the people were dropped into place to be found. Nobody ever observes the victims arriving into the area. One of the most perplexing issues is how the victims got to the space where they were eventually located.

Missing Clothes or Shoes

Often the victims are found without shoes or missing pieces of clothing. It doesn't matter the type of climate; this has been documented in all types of weather. There have been people who have never read the books claiming that this is due to hypothermia. The issue is that many small children are located missing clothing and their parents state that they could not remove their clothes. In other instances, on a warm afternoon, a person disappears. Hundreds of yards from the point last seen, searchers find a pile of clothing: The victim didn't have the time to get to the hypothermia state, yet all of their clothes had been removed. You will read stories in this book where clothing and shoes had been removed under highly unusual circumstances.

Time of Disappearance

The vast majority of disappearances occur in the late afternoon or early evening. In Missing 411: O the Grid, a table on page 358 shows cumulative data from seven books. The predominant time disappearances occur is just before it gets dark; that fact hasn't changed after reviewing thousands of additional cases.

Disability or Illness

An abnormal number of the missing has some disability or illness. This fact only shows itself after vetting thousands of cases. Many readers have stated that it appears to them as though someone or something closely monitors these people and wants to understand their genetic markers.

Lack of Memory

When a victim can talk and be questioned, the vast majority cannot remember how they got lost or what happened while they were missing. Searchers and law enforcement rarely sit with the missing and debrief about the experience. The e ort may be futile as the victim's memory might be blank.

Missing Are Often Found Near Creeks, Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, and Streams

In my book, Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I documented over 100 cases where young men vanished, sometimes in a large crowd of friends. Nobody can explain where the person went or how they left. Days, sometimes weeks, later, he is found in a body of water, deceased. Just as in previous books, there is a geographical clustering of the missing. I would refer readers to our Geographical Cluster Map of North America for details on this portion of the research.

In my first four Missing 411 books, many victims were found near creeks, rivers, and ponds, and many times the victims would've had to travel unusual and rugged terrain to get to those places.

In many instances, the victim is located amongst rocks and boulders adjacent to the body of water.

Boulders and Granite

The most significant cluster of missing people anywhere globally that matches our criteria is Yosemite National Park. Yosemite happens to

be one of those locations in the world that has a high concentration of granite. Many people documented in our books are found in boulder fields, amongst boulders and large rocks.

Swamps and Bogs

Some readers will find the fact that many missing people are located in the middle of swamps and bogs a highly unusual place to discover people. I have lost count of the number of times this fact has proven itself to be true. Marshes are one of those places that the general public won't casually wander. It could be considered one of those locations where few people ever trek. It is also a place discounted by many SAR personnel as too di icult for the victim to travel. While we did not locate many marshes in Idaho, it is a profile point that is found in some areas. Point of Separation

I want readers to have an awareness of when two people decide to part company. I've always claimed that a hiker traveling alone in the mountains will probably be more safety-conscious than someone traveling with a group. I can attest that I am much more aware of my surroundings and the inherent danger of what I might be doing when I am alone. I know that if I break my leg in the wild, I'm alone against the elements with nobody to seek assistance on my behalf. Hundreds have written to me about this point and that it appears as though the victim was being watched—and at the time they were vulnerable and isolated, the unusual happened.

As someone who has broken my leg in the wild of Australia while we were filming a missing person segment, the thought of hiking a lengthy distance is horrific.

Distance Traveled/ Height Achieved

After studying thousands of cases involving young children, I recognized a pattern where kids under seven years old were found in areas exceptionally far from the point they were last seen. In other incidents, they were located much higher in elevation than where they were left.

There are statistics on how far kids will be found from the PLS in search and rescue manuals. An example of this is that a two-year-old child will be located 95% of the time at a distance of two miles or less from PLS.

In Missing 411 O the Grid, I included a table that shows the cases where a two-year-old child was located in a wilderness area with no

roads as far as 20 miles, 15 (two di erent incidents), 12 miles (two separate incidents), 10 miles, 8 miles, and the list goes on.

I also included a table on heights achieved by very young kids that showed ludicrous results.

The pint of these graphs was to show that something very unusual was occurring. The easiest way to explain this was to provide a table that explained the facts; parents will quickly understand that there is something else at play.

I should note that there was no evidence of animal predation or other human involvement in all of the cases in the tables.

Equipment Malfunction

In documenting hundreds of missing people, you will eventually read about the air support that goes along with all SARs. There are a high number of engine and equipment issues associated with the SAR of the victims.

When I was writing Missing 411: Hunters, I came across a cluster of missing outdoorsmen in an area within 5 miles from Lake Superior on the Wisconsin-Michigan border. On November 21, 1948, Frank Naslund went hunting with three other friends in this exact area. Sometime in the early morning hours, the men separated to hunt. Three of the four hunters made it back to their vehicles at lunch. Frank didn't arrive, and a search was initiated.

Late in the afternoon on November 22, Frank found a fire cut and followed it until he came to a roadway and got assistance. The reason this story is relevant is for what Frank told a reporter in a November 23, 1948, article in the Rhinelander Daily News: "He said his compass was not functioning properly and at the time they were vulnerable and isolated, the unusual happened. As someone who has broken my leg in the wild of Australia while we were filming a missing person segment, the thought of hiking a lengthy distance is horrific.

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A malfunctioning compass is a factor in disappearances that nobody has addressed. Anomalies in the environment that would cause a compass to malfunction are a fascinating topic to explore. In Frank's

case, we don't know if he had a broken compass or if there was something in the environment that caused Frank's instrument to malfunction. If it was something in the atmosphere, could this be a contributing factor in many of the disappearances? With the advancements made in GPS technology, people are carrying trail guides and other items based on this technology. The compass has taken a backseat to GPS in need to determine location, direction, and route. We don't know how many times a compass has failed as people that have been missing are rarely debriefed at this level. I realize that various types of rocks can a ect the materials used in the manufacture of a compass. Could boulders have had an impact on how the compass operated? Could something else have been happening in Frank's location that impacted its functioning, high iron content, minerals, etc. This is good food for thought. Now take the issue of the compass and transfer that to instruments on airplanes. Could the aircraft crashes in the clusters (Refer to Missing 411- LAW) be related to some atmospheric anomaly that a ects engines and devices? If a compass is malfunctioning on the ground, could the same be happening above?

Falling or Dropped

This has been an evolving profile point. When I first started to track missing people, I noticed hundreds of cases where people were falling to their deaths where I didn't think they should've fallen. I know that when I am alone in the wilderness, I am extremely safety conscious because nobody is next to me to assist. The more I have focused on this issue; the more evidence that something unusual is happening in some cases. I have had hundreds of readers comment that it appeared to them the victim was pushed or dropped.

Geographical Clusters

The more time I spend digging deep into the minutia of the cases, going to the locations, and mapping the spots of disappearances on a state level, the more clusters show their faces. I was shocked when I finished Missing 411- Montana and the prominent groups that appeared; the same has happened in Idaho.

I have always been a visual person that appreciated maps and what they tell you. I study various maps for distances, topography, sex of the victims, etc. When you look at the Idaho map, you will quickly see an obvious cluster of missing females around Orofino.

The three closest cases to the city are all females. I am also looking at the topography in the missing area and comparing that information

with other regions of the United States.

Sub Groups

The missing people in the listed groups were participating in an activity that has been established in several of my past Missing 411 Books. The listed activities have large numbers of missing people and would be considered a profile point.

Berry Pickers

Hunters

Mushroom Pickers

Sheepherders

Personal Dreams and Psychic Visions

During my years as a police o icer, I knew of cases that were solved with the aid of a psychic. These were usually cases that had reached a dead-end in the investigative process, and the detectives were looking for anything to give the detectives a lift. In far too many instances, the lead led to solving the mystery of the case.

When I first started down the path of missing people, I accidentally encountered incidents where people vanished, and a friend, family member, or just a community citizen had a vision or dream that directly led them to the body. The facts are clear; something directed these people to the location that had the missing person. I know this may be di icult to believe, but it has happened in my research at least a dozen times.

The exact path to finding a body has also happened with psychics. It isn't easy to understand how the mind works in the psychic's work and what differentiates an e ective psychic from someone merely looking for publicity.

I need to say something here about remote viewers. I have had hundreds of people ask me to utilize the service of an RVer. Early in my research, I spoke at a conference with one of the most famous RVers in the world. This person worked for the Army in the early years and supposedly had some great success. He drew great diagrams, told stories that were outstanding and riveting. After the man's presentation, I met with him at the end of the conference and asked if he would assist me in finding people. He said sure and gave

me his phone and email number.

Once back from the conference, I called the person at least five times without a return call. I emailed him several times until he finally called back and directed me to send him the photo of the victim. I sent the items under the protocol; he requested, and several weeks later, he called. He gave me information that he saw about the victim that was so outrageously wrong and in the complete opposite end of the United States that it was ridiculous. The victim was eventually found very close to where he vanished and not within two thousand miles of the location the RVer stated he would be.

The second time I contacted an RYer, I heard on a radio program. He was equally famous as the first individual I used. This person boasted heavily about his successes; nothing could be validated until he spoke about a case he had recently solved. The case involved a missing man. The RVer stated he had told searchers were to go and find the body, which he said they did. The mistake the RVer made, he gave me the name of the victim.

I called the victim's wife and asked her about the success of the RVer? She stated that he did nothing to find her husband; he bragged incessantly and was essentially worthless. The information from the wife was enough for me.

My perspective of RVers, they may indeed have had great success at some time in their life. I have not found one case where they located a missing person. They sell great classes, tell extraordinary stories, are entertaining to listen to, and are polite people.

If a Rver had a specific location where they claimed a body was located, I'd tell them to put it in writing, and I'd check it out. I would not tell anyone of the tip as the likelihood exists that it would be a failure. I have asked hundreds of people in the RV community if they know of one confirmed instance where an RVer found anyone; to date, nobody has named a case.

German Nationality

After researching thousands of cases involving almost every nationality you can imagine, the number one nationality that goes missing matching our profile is German.

There was a point in our work where we were investigating a series of missing physicists. The people were missing from three di erent states and one other country under very unusual circumstances; all were

German. We specifically made an extended e ort to find another physicist missing that was another nationality; we couldn't find any. The last very unusual aspect to each of those missing cases, none were found.

Unknown Cause of Death

After writing Missing 411- The Devil's in the Detail, I was on the east coast because Ben's hockey team had a weekend series against a big rival. I received an email from a coroner for a vast jurisdiction in the area asking if I would meet with them and discuss the unusual findings I had made about young men being located deceased and coroners not determining what killed them. I gladly agreed, and we met on a Saturday morning.

The conversation started with this physician/ coroner explaining that the team they worked with has had the same issue I explained in the books. The body is found and is taken to them for review. A coroner does the autopsy and cannot determine what killed the person. It was explained that this has been happening for decades, and it is frustrating to their team. The doctor stated that the group comprises brilliant scientists who take that factual, science-based forensics approach to every case. They test fluids, blood and urine, and various other samples to verify any chemicals or drugs in the system that could lead to death. After a case is completed and the determination is made that death cannot be determined, they often bring the team together and discuss the incident.

I was asked how widespread the issue is of not finding a cause of death on cases related to my work? I explained that this happens worldwide and is not regional.

WE had a broader discussion about the advancements in science and forensics in the last twenty years and how these tools should have overcome many of the obstacles they still face today.

The meeting ended with the request that I apply to be a speaker at the national conference of coroners. I said that I would apply to discuss the issue we discussed.

I did apply to speak at the conference and was politely dismissed.

Since the meeting with the coroner, I have now completed seven more Missing 411 books with a more incredibly defined base of knowledge on this topic. Millions of people have been made aware of our findings, and this has pushed more emails to my o ice.

Part of the notes, letters, and emails I have received are centered on the issue of the unknown cause of death ruling. Surprisingly, many of the people have pointed to people dying because their soul was taken. It was explained that our soul is needed to be human, and without it, our hearts cease to function. Some claim that aliens need our souls to expand their society and become more human-like. I do not agree with this theory, nor am I refuting it. I found this to be a very intriguing theory to a complex issue.

Vetting Cases

After reading thousands of SAR and law enforcement reports on missing people, we developed a series of vetting points. These items determine if we exclude a case from the study. We rely upon facts directly from SAR members, reports, news archives, and witness statements.

Voluntary Disappearance: if evidence is presented that the person planned to disappear and wanted to fall out of society, this is an exclusionary point.

Mental Health: If the individual has a history of mental health issues and those are relevant to the disappearance, we will not include the case in studies. Animal Predation: Some in the public think that animal attacks are di icult to located and understand. When a mountain lion or bear attacks a person in the wild, the victim will fight for their life. The scene will include blood, skin tissue, drag marks, the ground will be torn up and obviously disturbed, and bits of clothing will be located. SAR teams are trained to look for and find predation areas.

At conferences, I routinely ask attendees how many fatal mountain lion attacks have happened in North America in the last 100 years? Nobody gets this question correct. The answer is 16, that's it. Mountain Lion attacks are not that unusual; fatal attacks are rare. If you happen to see Jaryd Atadero's name on a list of deadly mountain lion attacks, it's a lie. Watch our first documentary, Missing 411; four different mountain lion experts wrote that it was not a mountain lion that attacked Jaryd.

I've read many online forums where people who have never read my books or just watched a few videos are convinced that the majority of the disappearances we've documented are caused by predation, no.

Criminal Activity: Crime on a mountain trail is rare, but it does

happen. If there is evidence that a crime occurred in conjunction with a disappearance, we will exclude that case from our study.

Notes

Many of you will mark this book up extensively with notes and thoughts on cases; I encourage this. I've had readers tell me that they've read each book three or four times to absorb raw facts. In each case, I have attempted to leave several notes to identify source material. Many of the case facts came directly from SAR and law enforcement reports.

The NPS has given me the designation of a "Commercial Requestor" for all FOIA requests. This essentially means they can charge me up to four times what they charge the average citizen for documents and materials. This is a blatant attempt to detract us from requesting and obtaining missing person reports, as they know we can't a ord those outrageous fees. Many of you have stepped forward and o ered to seek case files on our behalf and allow our research to continue; this is sincerely appreciated. Your continued and ongoing support is needed for us to further our work. My contact information is on the last page of this book.

Abbreviations used:

ATV- All Terrain Vehicle

CCC- Civilian Conservation Corps

FBI- Federal Bureau of Investigation

PLS- Point Last Seen

SAR- Search and Rescue

Summary

My regular readers understand that I lay a roadmap for the audience. So I want you to take notes, put down your thoughts and see if you can pick out the profile points. In some cases, I have laid out the points so you can understand how my investigative process works. I have never proposed a theory or hypothesis about what is happening to the people I present. This is my eleventh book; the road to get to this place has been cumbersome and enlightening, but I still don't know what is happening. There are no facts to support what is happening to the missing people I write about. If I had a theory about

what is happening and could support it with facts, you'd read about it right here.

I am convinced that something very unusual is occurring.

Get your pen and be ready to mark up this book!

Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence

James Vaughan

Missing: 08/20/1883, Gentile Valley, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 18 months

This story could also be included in the state of Utah section. This occurrence was in the far southeastern area of Idaho in proximity to disappearances in northeast Utah.

If I fabricated this story and presented it as fact, most of you would laugh and say that I should have a better imagination. Well, on August 26, 1883, the Salt Lake Tribune published a story titled, "Carried o by Bear, An 18-month-old Child Taken into the Mountains but Found Alive and Well the Next Day."

The article states that a mother was working at her house in the Gentile Valley of southeast Idaho, just northwest of Bear Lake. As the woman was doing the family wash, she suddenly realized her son, James, was missing. She immediately searched the area but could not find her eighteen-month-old boy. The mother ran to a neighbor's house and made a plea for assistance. Seventeen neighbors responded and started to look for tracks.

The article states that some of the men found the tracks of "a huge bear." The men followed the tracks through the canyons and valleys toward Bear Lake.

As the evening started to arrive and they still hadn't found the boy, the men returned to their homes and waited till morning.

Before dawn the next morning, three men left to return to the area where they had last seen tracks. At 10:00 a.m. Ed Goslin spotted James "curled up in a bunch of weeds and grass in the bushes sound asleep with his little tattered and torn dress thrown over his head, while close by, besides the sleeping child, was the warm bed of what must have been a very large bear, which had abandoned its captive on

the approach of the men in search." James did not have his shoes on, and he had a slight scratch on one foot.

The child had been carried four miles through valleys and over some very rough terrain and thick brush.

Case Summary

If I hadn't read the original article, I'm not sure I would have given this a second thought. That said, I have heard a very similar story told multiple times. I have consulted with bear experts, and they categorically claim this can never happen. They claim that the bear will eat the child or drop the child and flee but not cuddle and keep the child warm all night. The scenario as it's described does cause me to ask several questions. First, the article states that the bear had to have gone through heavy brush to reach where the child was found. Why didn't the child have extensive scratches and bruises from the brush? Second, the bear would have to carry the child in its mouth, making James close to the ground and susceptible to scratches. Third, if the bear was carrying the child, where are bite marks that must have been inflicted? Why wouldn't the clothes he was wearing be tom to shreds by the bite marks that the bear must have inflicted?

I believe that something very, very unusual happened in Gentile Valley in August of 1883, and we still haven't heard the entire story.

Patrick McKenzie

Missing 07/26/1893, Mayfield

Age at disappearance, 32 years

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the life of a sheepherder was lonely, filled with isolation, had a constant threat of weather-related hazards and predators that stalked the herd from its perimeter. The lone herder almost always had two dogs, and the wealthy ones had a horse and rifle.

The home for the herder was usually something similar to a wagon with a domed top; sometimes, the roof was wooden to retain heat. The worker was often left alone for weeks at a time without any contact from the world.

This story deals with a sheepherder who was the owner of his band that was raised in Oregon. The Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 27 owner was 3 2-year-old Patrick McKenzie, who was

moving his sheep with the assistance of herder Tom Pickering. The pair had driven the 800 sheep across the Idaho border and moved into the area south of Boise near Mayfield in Elmore County.

Patrick had told Pickering to ride his horse ahead and look for a suitable campsite and location to rest the herd. The first article about this incident appeared in the August 1, 1893 edition of the Idaho Statesman with the title, “Mysterious Disappearance of Roderick McKenzie, with the following information, “H. W. Warren, a farmer living in Mayfield, is in the city and reports the most remarkable disappearance of a sheep man named Roderick McKenzie. McKenzie owned a band of 800 sheep and, with the assistant, Tom Pickering was driving them from the John Days River, Oregon, to the eastern market. Last Tuesday, July 25, Pickering, being acquainted with the country, went ahead to select a camping place, directing McKenzie to drive the sheep to a point near the Indian Creek Dam, where it was proposed to stop that night. Pickering arranged the camp and sat down to wait for his employer. McKenzie did not put in an appearance, and about dusk started out for him.”

McKenzie was a dutiful employee and searched out Roderick. Late that night, he found that the sheep had not been moved far from the last point he had seen them. He slept that night, awoke early, and again started looking for his boss. He immediately began to find the band scattered into small groups. The trail of sheep was long and disturbing.

In the same article quoted earlier was this, “On the third day he found McKenzie’s hat, coat, overshirt, and shoes. He searched in vain for the trail, but in the hard, dry soil, no tracks could be distinguished. Pickering also found the bridle of McKenzie’s horse. After searching for some time, he gave up in despair and was able to collect 675 head of sheep that he drove to the Warren Ranch, where they are now. There were two dogs with the outfit. One was faithfully guarding a small band of sheep. The other evidently walked o with its master.”

After Pickering got the sheep to the ranch, he turned back around and went back searching for McKenzie; that is loyalty! An August 4, 1893 article in the Idaho Statesman had these details, “It seems it was Pickering who found McKenzie’s body and not a section foreman as was stated previously. After driving the band of sheep to Mayfield and relating his story, he started on another search for his lost employer. On the fourth day, he discovered his body lying under a big sagebrush about three and a half miles from Orchard Farms. The body was terribly decomposed.” The article went on to say that there were no

shoes, coat, or overshirts on the corpse. He was found face down with the head supported on folded arms. The article clearly stated that Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 29 there was no foul play. He was still wearing his gold watch and had $29.15 in his pockets."

A Coroner's Inquest was established, and the jury came back with a verdict that Roderick McKenzie came to death from unknown causes. In September of 1893, a public administrator was assigned and sold the 590 sheep that were still alive for $1,375 each for a total of $811.25. Roderick had a mother, brother, and sisters that resided in Loch Katrine in Scotland, and the money from the public sale of the sheep was wired to them.

The area that Roderick disappeared does not have significant ground cover, just sagebrush. The trip he was making towards Tom Pickering was less than two miles and could've easily been accomplished in the time he gave Pickering to establish the camp. The fact that something overtook Roderick in that short amount of time is ba ling. It equally concerns me that nobody ever found the other dog or Roderick's horse. How did the horse bridle come o McKenzie's horse? What would've caused Mr. McKenzie to remove his shirt and shoes, and how did he manage to traverse across the ground without his boots?

The verdict by the coroner of an unknown cause of death is typical in a large number of cases that I have researched.

I have documented many unusual disappearances of sheepherders in Missing 411- Montana and Missing 411- Eastern United States. I have often thought about the gorgeous night skies that a herder must've seen while he was alone and deep in the middle of nowhere. What did they see and experience? Were these men confronted by something completely unexplainable?

Profile Points: Point of Separation- Missing clothes/ shoes-No tracks-Unknown Cause of Death- Sheepherder

Charles Ritter

Missing 12/27/1900, Bu alo Humps Wilderness

Age at disappearance: Unknown

This incident is centered on The Bu alo Humps Wilderness Area located southeast of Grangeville. Eight people listed on the map went missing in this area, and six in the surrounding area.

Charles Ritter was listed as a young man (no age) that was originally from Austin, Missouri, and now living in Big Creek. In March of 1900, he had worked in the Olympia area of Washington and came back to Idaho to work on mining projects in the Bu alo Humps area. Charles had special skills associated with mining that dealt with the movement of dirt, water and making the mine e icient. He worked on several big projects. He was described in several articles as an honest and reliable young man.

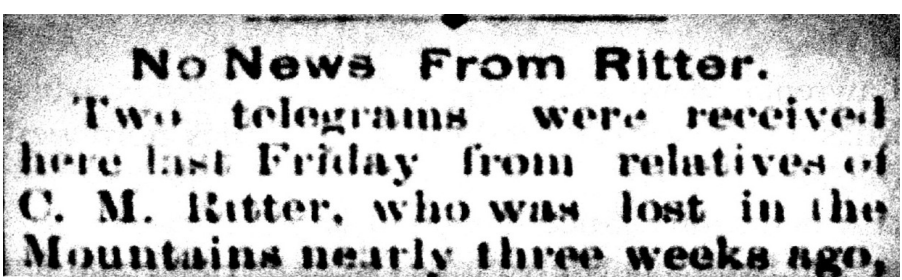
Just after Christmas of 1900, Charles was working on several mining projects in the Bu alo Humps area.

The January 3, 1901 article in the Idaho County Free Press stated the following, “No news has yet been received from Charles Ritter, who was reported lost in the snow at the Hump last week, and his friends have little hope of ever hearing from him.”

People lost track of Charles and exactly where he was when the winter snows started to fall by the feet.

A January 17 article stated that his friends had given up hope of ever hearing from Charles. They said that he was a member of the Odd Fellows Home, and this was where his mother was now living in Austin, Missouri.

There was one small article in March of 1901 that stated there was a $ 150 reward for anyone finding and returning the body of Charles Ritter, paid by attorney John Hanson from Grangeville representing the interests of John Ritter.



No News From Ritter.

Two telegrams were received here last Friday from relatives of C. M. Ritter, who was lost in the Mountains nearly three weeks ago.

There were no updates on the search for Charles until a May 30,1901, article in the Idaho County Free Press, “John W. Ritter arrived here yesterday from New Castle, Colorado, and will go to the Hump to assist in the search for the body of his brother, Charles Ritter, who was lost in there last winter.” After that, there were not any further

details for over a month.

There was a comprehensive search taking place for Charles that included his business partner, J.E. Vallentine, as is described in this July 4, 1901 article in the Idaho County Free Press, “J. E. Vallentine came out from the Hump this week where he has been with a party that is searching for the body of Charles Ritter. They have worked diligently for two months without finding any trace of the missing man.”

A two-month search for a missing man in the middle of the wilderness was an unheard-of amount of time to search for anyone in 1901. It’s an amount of search time you wouldn’t even find today.

Charles Ritter was never found. The mystery about this incident continues today, along with the others missing from the same area.

Lawrence Marsh (Son of)

Missing: 06/15/1907-6:00 p.m., 13 miles northwest of Caldwell, ID
Age at disappearance: 19 months

Caldwell sits twelve miles west of Boise and ten miles east of the Oregon border. The location of this incident is thirteen miles northwest of Caldwell, very near the Snake and Payette Rivers. This area is desolate and similar to a high desert area.

On June 15, 1907, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Marsh realized that their nineteen- month-old son was missing from their rural home. They quickly searched the area and called for the boy without getting a response. The family made the trip to neighbors’ and asked for assistance in finding their boy.

It wasn’t long before a formal request was made to the area penitentiary for Bloodhounds. There were several dogs sent, and articles indicated they found nothing.

A June 21, 1907, article in the Spokesman Review had the following information on the search and rescue: “Harold Hawthorne finally found the little one 8 miles east of its home. He was searching in that direction with a party, but first turned back declaring that the child could not have traveled so far, but he pushed on until he finally found the baby’s tracks.” Hawthorne did find the child alive.

Articles describe the baby’s condition as good but with scratches on his face and legs.

Summary

It's very hard to understand why Bloodhounds failed to find the scent of the child. Much of this area is open sage brush country with very few locations where a baby could hide.

The statement of the searcher and his reluctance to push farther away is indicative of most people who would be looking for a nineteen-month-old baby. Robert Koester's book, Lost Person Behavior, is a book used to set search guidelines on SAR missions. The book states that a child one to three years old traveling on flat ground will be found 95 percent of the time within 2.0 miles or less. This tot was found in four times that distance. Is this believable?

J. Mitchell

Missing 1/11/1909, Salmon River Breaks, Grangeville, ID

Age at Disappearance: Unknown

6', 250 pounds

Searchers had been looking for Mitchell for over a week. The sheepherder was missing from his flock and a search was initiated.

He disappeared in a heavy snowstorm and has not been seen since. Mitchell had been working for Mr. George Poe since early in 1908.

On January 17 searchers found the body of Mitchell under suspicious circumstances. The body was found at the bottom of a very steep boulder ridden hill near the Salmon River breaks. The body had a broken leg, skull and wrist fracture. It was the opinion of the coroner that Mitchell had been dead a week.

One article stated that there were many theories proposed about what may have happened, the most popular being that he fell down the hillside or was caught in an avalanche. The issue with the avalanche theory, he was not buried under any rocks or boulders. The circumstances of Mr. Mitchell's demise are very similar to other cases I have researched where it appeared that the people fell from heights, or what dropped to their death.

George Smith

Missing: 11/04/1911, Grangeville, ID

Age at disappearance: 45 years

George Smith was a farmer that had little time to break away from his work to enjoy the outdoors. He lived fifteen miles north of Grangeville in Ferdinand.

In early November 1911, George traveled from his farm to meet three friends in Grangeville for elk hunting. The group gathered and traveled twenty-five miles south to a hunting location called Adams Camp. This region of the Nez Perce National Forest is infamous for giant elk, erratic weather, and dead bodies.

On November 4,1911, in the early-morning hours, the group discussed their hunt and plans. George told them that he preferred to hunt alone and that he'd be back by dusk. George didn't make it back.

Before you jump to conclusions in this incident, remember how di icult it would be to travel twenty-five miles through the mountains in 1911. It was brutal.

When George didn't come back, the trio of friends decided to try to retrace what steps they could find and locate their friend. The group did have some success: they found a wrapper that George had put his sandwich in. But that was all they found. The group stayed with it for three days. They struggled through brutally cold weather with fifteen inches of snow on the ground. The group made it back to Grangeville and got more assistance. The final search culminated ten days after Smith vanished. They found nothing.

A November 14, 1911, article in the Spokane Chronicle summarized the region where Smith vanished: "If Smith is dead, he will be but one more on a long list of men who have lost their lives in the hilly region 25 miles south of here." I can only imagine how many hunters vanished prior to 1911 in this area. It is very di icult to research deaths in the 1800s and early 1900s. You will read about other incidents that occurred in this area later in this chapter.

O.T. Lindstrom

Missing: 11/21/1913, Spirit Lake Age at disappearance: Unknown

Spirit Lake is located four miles east of the Washington border and eight miles north of downtown Coeur d'Alene. The location is an idyllic spot for a summer vacation set amidst big trees and gorgeous mountains. The lake is a mile wide at its widest and approximately three miles long.

The City of Spirit Lake was formed in the early 1900s when engineers platted the ground, and residents from surrounding big cities started to purchase property for their vacation homes. As a result, a lumber mill was established and at its height employed 2000 people.

A mural on the side of a store in Spirit Lake, Idaho.

The area around Spirit Lake has grown a massive amount in the last fifty years. The land east of the lake has the city of Spirit Lake with an old downtown area. The region outside the city has become established with large lots and homes and a new high school.

The woods west of the lake are still relatively undeveloped with forests, small streams, and the beauty that open space in Idaho brings.

O.T. Lindstrom had come to Spirit Lake when the land plots were established in 1910. He recognized that the train would quickly bring masses of people from Spokane. He had specialized training as a tailor and established a business with a friend, Carlson, and Lindstrom.

The business did well as the community grew quickly, aided by a gorgeous lake, good fishing and hunting, and close proximity to Coeur d'Alene and Spokane. The German tailor was an outdoorsman and loved to hunt and fish. In 1911 he was hunting the area and got lost for one night. He returned to his home without incident and continued to go into the woods the following years.

The disappearance of anyone in a small city is big news, and Spirit Lake is no di erent. This November 28, 1913 article in the Silver Blade had the following details, “O.T. Lindstrom, a tailor of Spirit Lake, went deer hunting last Friday and failed to return. Searching parties have been scouring the woods, and the lumber mill has been closed to permit the men to join the search.” At the point this article was penned, O.T. had been missing a week, and things were getting drastic. The mill closing sent a huge message to Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 39 the community that everyone needed to get into the woods and look for the businessman.

In December 6th Spokesman-Review, an article stated that O.T. had still not been found. The last report of 1913 about the search for noted that he was a member of the Odd Fellows Home of Spirit Lake, and their members had entered the woods to locate the tailor. I am sure at this point; the group understood they were looking for a body.

In March 2014, the Odd Fellows made another attempt to locate O.T.’s body, and then again in April, the I.O.O.F. made the same e ort, all failed. The number of searches and the overall e ort to locate O.T. was huge, the fact he was never found is troubling.

On October 15, 1915, the Spokesman-Review had an article that stated appraisers had been working on O.T.’s estate and valued it at $1,150, quite a sum of money for that time in history. The last article that made mention of O.T. Lindstrom was in 1916 that claimed his partner, Carlson closed up their shop and moved back to Chicago.

O.T. Lindstrom was never found.

Profile Points: Hunter- Water- German- Never Found

Charles Patterson

Missing 10/23/1919, Hayden Creek, Lemhi County Age at disappearance: 60 years

There are two incidents in this book where the hunters vanished from the same location, the headwaters of Hayden Creek in Lemhi County. Refer to the Ray Jones story for the other incident.

On October 23, 1919, Charles Patterson lived alone and owned a ranch in Lemhi County. The rancher and brothers William and Vernal Ling and friend Sam Jarvis along with Jet Berridge, all decided to go elk hunting in the upper headwaters of Hayden Creek. Early in the hunt, the group split up, and Charles rode o with his horse. When

Charles didn't arrive back and the pre-arranged location, his friends looked and found his tracks in the snow. They followed the path until they lost them. The group decided to head home and call the Lemhi County Sheri .

TO SEARCH MOUNTAINS FOR

LONG LOST CHAS. PATTERSON

Lemhi County Sheri W. A. Free went into the Hayden Creek area with multiple search teams. Articles stated that recent snow had obliterated the tracks, and the feeling of searchers is that Patterson could not be alive. The searchers did find the missing man's Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 41 horse but did not locate Charles. After several days of searching, Sheri Free terminated the search and said he'd be back after the snow melted.

There was a public notice in the November 28, 1919 edition of the Idaho Recorder, "Bernard All-hands, Leadore banker, is the administrator of the estate of Charles Patterson, a rancher who was lost on a hunt in the mountains at the head of Hayden Creek not long ago and who is now given up for dead. The general supposition is that Patterson, who was a quiet man with not an enemy in the world, met with an accident that disabled him on the hunt and perished from exposure." This set-in motion the disposition of Mr. Patterson's property and livestock.

The following article appeared in the July 16, 1920 edition of the Idaho Recorder. It stated that Charles Tage and Clyde Tillotson went to the headwaters of Hayden Creek in another e ort to locate Mr. Patterson. They spent two weeks scouring the entire area looking for any clues as to what happened to the hunter. The article also stated that Deputy Sheri Dree had also been out with a search party in June and found nothing. The final article appeared in the July 23, 1920 edition of the Idaho Recorder, "The body of Charles Patterson, lost since last fall in the high mountains of Upper Hayden Creek, was found dead last Sunday by agents of the sheri 's department. Will Reese and Art Pyeatt, who had been on the search since the first of the month. They came upon the body on the east fork side of Bally Mountain about five and a half miles above the timberline and at least four miles from the place where Patterson's horse was discovered tied up." Later in the same article was this, As far as could be determined, Mr. Patterson lost his way in a snowstorm and kept going until he was exhausted." Later in the same article was this, "There was evidence that the body had been caught in a snowslide, one hand being

missing. The gun he carried was never found."

This is one of the most convoluted stories that make no sense to anyone applying critical thinking.

Mr. Patterson was sixty years old, not a young man. He was riding his horse, and for some reason, he tied the animal to a tree and supposedly left going uphill five miles on foot in deep snow. The article implies that he was caught in an avalanche, meaning he had to travel uphill further than five miles. Why would he leave his horse behind and walk up a very steep hill in deep snow? I have been to this area of Hayden Creek; the mountains are very steep and very high. This is not an area for older men to hike in when you are traveling through a snowstorm.

The clothing worn by hunters in 1919 is not anything like the technology-oriented clothes hunters wear today. There are excellent chances that Mr. Patterson was wearing cowboy boots and a warm ranch Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 43 coat, nothing that you could survive a snowstorm in. I'm sitting here trying to put into words how ridiculous the story the newspaper made up to discount what happened to this hunter.

There was one last tidbit that made the story even more interesting. One report indicated that Mr. Patterson was missing one hand, and his rifle was never found. They attributed the missing hand to the avalanche he was supposedly in, again, like falling. The same article said that the body was possibly carried for miles in the avalanche; wow!

Sorry folks, I'm not this gullible. I do not believe that a 60-year-old rancher on a perfectly capable horse is going to dismount that equine, and rather than ride through deep snow, he's going to hike through it. Not just hike through deep snow, hike up a very steep mountain in a snowstorm.

It has not gotten past me that two of the most perplexing disappearances in this book happened in Upper Hayden Creek in Lemhi County.

Profile Points: Weather- Hunter- Water- Granite- Point of separation

Daughter of Pulsipher

Missing 10/11/1922, 6:00 p.m., Malta

Age at disappearance: 2 Years

This incident happened approximately fifteen miles north of the Utah border in a desert environ-ment. I've documented hundreds of cases that occurred in and around a desert that has few visible obstructions and fewer people.

In the early 1900s, it was customary for newspapers not to publish the first name of juveniles and refer to them as the parent's child, as happened in this disappearance. Instead, every article identified the child as the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fielding Pulsipher. The family lived on homestead property five miles south of Malta. The location was hot, dusty, with few inhabitants, and a dry place. For further clarity, this location is just fifteen miles north of the Utah border.

Mr. Pulsipher was in California working, and his wife was on the property to hold the homestead rights. Two hours after dinner on October 11, 1922, Mrs. Pulsipher determined that her two-year-old daughter was missing. First, she searched the yard and then the entire property, calling her name and then screaming for the girl; she did not respond. She contacted neighbors and asked to spread the word and persuade more people to assist with the search.

Articles state that locals could track the girl west until she came across a barbed-wire fence, and then she went north until coming to a gate. Here is what the 2-year-old did next per this article in the News-Journal of October 20, 1922, "And continuing northwest crossing the Raft River twice, and just as dark came she came to the comer of the fence near a farmhouse. The lady was milking her cows and heard the child crying but thought it was a fishing party with a child among them." If was at this point that the search party lost the tracks.

Let's stop here for a breath. So, we are to believe that a two-year-old child crossed a river (TWICE) that was big enough for fish and wasn't knocked down, didn't get hurt and did not drown, and then continued on hiking?

The girl was not tracked, but the search fanned out through the desert. She was eventually found deep in the desert. In the same newspaper, as was quoted earlier, there was also this, "It is estimated by those of the searching party, who traced the steps of the little girl, that she traveled fully eight miles in her wanderings." That is eight miles in 24 hours.

The searchers explained the weather as very cold with blowing wind.

They did say that the girl had cactus pricks but no other apparent injuries. However, there was no mention of what clothing she was wearing or the cause of her death.

Search and rescue manuals on setting grid patterns for searches on the flat ground indicate a child of two years old will be found 95% of the time at a distance of two miles or less from the point they were last seen. However, Ms. Pulsipher traveled four times the distance recommended in a SAR manual.

CHILD WANDERS TO

DESERT AND DIES

DURING RAINSTORM

Here is a significant fact for you to ponder. When small children get lost in the wild, they will invariably stop walking, lay down, and sleep for 10-12 hours as soon as it gets dark. This is because most children are afraid of the dark and will do what they are trained when it gets dark, sleep. The girl was gone for approximately 24 hours, meaning she was on her feet and traveling for 12-14 hours. Follow the math, if she traveled 8 miles in 12 hours, she was moving reasonably fast, even for an adult. She saw a farmhouse and knew that it was safe; why didn't she seek out assistance?

The fact that Ms. Pulsipher found a river in the middle of the desert didn't get by me, pretty strange. Too cross that river two times and not drown, hard to believe.

Profile Points: Distance Traveled, Water, Weather

Ruben Kleweno

Missing: 11/30/1926, six miles north of Harvard, ID Age at disappearance: 27 years

Ruben Kleweno was a single man working his parents' farm in Genesee, Idaho, just three miles east of the Washington border. He was described as very physically fit and an experienced woodsman and hunter.

On November 30, 1926, Ruben was at his deer-hunting camp on the north side of Strychnine Creek six miles north of Harvard in the Saint Joe National Forest. It was the last day of hunting season, and spirits were high. Ruben was hunting with three of his friends, Joe and Jones

McCowan and Jay Rohn. At 9:00 a.m. the men decided they were going to separate and meet back at camp that night. As darkness fell, Ruben didn't return. His friends weren't concerned and believed he may have killed an animal and was field dressing it. By the next morning, he still hadn't returned, and they left to get assistance.

Residents of Harvard and Genesee came out en masse to search for the local man. Hundreds of searchers inundated the region and combed the mountains for days. Heavy, surprising fog hit the area, and articles stated that this inhibited the e ort to locate the man. As the search continued, the fog left and heavy rains started. The rains caused the water levels in creeks and rivers to rise, and this concerned searchers.

Law enforcement stated that they were focusing on a small stream called the Palouse River, where they felt Ruben had been hunting. Several search teams built massive fires on hilltops so that Ruben would know where to find safety. This didn't work. A December 2 article in the Spokesman Review explained other search e orts that were initiated: "Thursday the bird dog owned by young Kleweno was sent for to aid in the search, while Bloodhounds from the penitentiary in Walla Walla were being brought to Harvard in an e ort to help trace the missing man. Kleweno is said to be very familiar with the woods and friends say that unless he is injured, he would be able to strike either of the two streams or the forest road, any of which he could easily follow out of the timber."

An extensive two-week search to find Ruben failed. They didn't find anything to even indicate he was in the region. There was no new information about this case for decades.

On July 9, 1948, a group from the Blister Rust Control Program was working an area 350 yards east of US Highway 95E and found a skull. This was just north of Harvard. The group contacted the sheri , and a search was conducted. Law enforcement found a pelvic rib, thigh bones, and the deteriorated sole of a shoe. The sheri made statements that this might be the remains of Ruben. The remains were sent to the coroner for analysis. I could not find any other articles stating that the remains were identified.

Let's review why this case is relevant. Two types of weather hampered search e orts. Fog and heavy rain were in the area while the search was being conducted. Two di erent types of dogs were brought to the scene. Ruben's dog and Bloodhounds from the prison couldn't find him.

R. H. Robertson

Missing 10/06/1930, Yellow Pine

Age at disappearance: 55 years This disappearance occurred 17 miles Southeast of Yellow Pine, a small community in the Boise National Forest. The city is unincorporated and sits beautifully on the East Fork of the Salmon River. The first post o ice for the region established itself in Yellowpine in 1906. The area around the city is known for elk, deer, bear, and cougar hunting and fishing. The small town sits twenty air miles northeast of McCall.

In October of 1930, R. H. Robertson was the Vice President and Regional Sales Manager for the Western Royal Company and based in Boise. He was married to his wife, Mabel, and they had one daughter.

On October 6, 1930, R.H. was deer hunting with his good friends Jack Newcomb and Martel Archibald in the Meadow Creek Mine section of the Boise National Forest 17 miles southeast of Yellow Pine. The group had left their camp early Monday morning and decided to separate and hunt with an agreement to meet back at camp before dark. R.H. never made it back. This October 10, 1930 article in the Idaho Statesman explained what transpired, “Robertson, accompanied by Jack Newcomb, also of Boise, had been hunting in the region since Saturday. Monday, he separated from his friends and failed to return to camp that night.”

The search for R.H. started almost immediately. One of the hunters in his party went to Yellow Pine to rally for more assistance and contact the sheri and forest rangers. Almost immediately, 25 people arrived to comb the wilderness looking for the lost hunter. The word of the disappearance quickly got back to Boise. R. H. was a member of the Mason lodge. The October 14, 1930 edition of the Idaho Statesman had this information, “Fifteen Masons will take to the field today or Wednesday morning. Robertson, being a member of that order, the Masons were recruited from Boise lodges and are prepared to stay in the hunt for five days, working with For-est Rangers. They were advised that the entire area in which Robertson hunted could be covered by 10- 15 men with packhorses conducting an organized search.”

MISSING IDAHO HUNTER SOUGHT IN DEEP FOREST

Boise Salesman Failed to Return Monday to Camp

LOST HUNTING DEER

Was Trained Woodsman; Hope Expressed

The search for R.H. had as many as 50 searchers for an area that a much smaller number could cover adequately. The location was swarming with lodge members, locals, and hunters all looking for the Boise resident. This search had a high saturation level, and that meant a good chance of finding the man.

Forest Rangers were running the SAR e ort and had been told by friends that R.H. was an extremely capable outdoorsman, knew the area well, and could take care of himself.

The primary search[1] for R.H. Robertson was terminated after eight days, with nothing found.

Forty-two days after Mr. Robertson vanished, his family hired noted Idaho tracker Dan Drake. There was approximately a foot of snow on the ground when Drake took to the mountains getting directions from family and friends about where they thought the businessman was last heading. Drake searched for several days and found nothing.

After hiring the tracker, the Robertson family made trips during the summer to the site and searched for days at a time, never found anything. There was nothing new on this incident for years.

The search for the remains of R.H. Robertson came to a sad ending with the information found in the August 28, 1935 edition of the Idaho Statesman, “A belt buckle, tobacco pouch and part of a hunting jacket discovered in a hollow of the Yellowpine mountains brought to an end Tuesday to a five-year search for R.H. Robertson, 55, Boise hunter lost October 6, 1930, while on a deer hunting trip with Jack Newcomb and Martel Archibald. Sheri Robert Wilson of Valley County declared identity positive. He took charge of clothing and personal e ects found Sunday a mile from the head of Bishop Creek by Thomas Galler, a sheepherder.”

The sheri further explained that the sheepherder found a wallet containing a $20 bill and a $5 dollar Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 53 bill and eyeglasses with lenses missing, a first aid kit, and remains of a pair of shoes. Robertson’s rifle and personal watch were also recovered from the scene. The belt buckle had the initial “R” on it. There were no bullet holes in the clothing or bones. The sheri stated that it appeared that R.H. died of exhaustion.

The Valley County sheri told the press that the search for R.H. had been cut short because of a winter storm that hit the area after he disappeared. In a very odd twist, the same article quoted above stated

that the famous tracker, Dan Drake that the family hired, had built a cabin less than a mile from where R. H. was eventually located. Drake was possessed with finding the hunter and had spent months of his own time searching the mountains for the man. The sheri also clarified that searchers had been close to the location many times, as close as one half a mile.

The location where R.H.'s remains were located was in a thicket 2 1/2 miles from the camp he had established, well within the range of the primary search e ort.

You will never see a cause of death in our times as being classified as exhaustion. When R.H. disappeared, friends and others were in the area calling his name and looking for him; why didn't he hear them? One very odd piece to this puzzle is the finding of his eyeglasses without the lenses. It's obvious that nobody wanted to steal from the scene; the sheri found his rifle and cash. If you take away the ability for someone to see, you can almost guarantee they won't wander far. This region of the Boise National Forest is heavily hunted. R.H.'s remains were not found for five years even though a famous tracker looked for him for months, hunters walked through the area hundreds of times, and still, he wasn't found for almost 56 months. R.H. was described by many as a true outdoorsman that was in shape and knew his way around the area. What could have taken him down, and how did the forest conceal him for such a long period of time?

Dailey Hamerly

Missing: 05/25/1933-2:00 p.m., Moscow, ID

Age at disappearance: 2 years

This incident happened in close proximity to a cluster of missing people just on the Washington side of the border. Moscow is located between Lewiston and Coeur d' Alene and approximately twenty-five miles north of Hells Gate State Park.

On May 25, 1933, at approximately 2:00 p.m., Mrs. Cecil Hamerly was returning to her seven children at their residence after briefly visiting a neighbor and Mr. Hamerly was cutting firewood just slightly away from the house. After Mrs. Hamerly arrived home, she realized that Dailey had disappeared. The parents and the kids looked for the boy but couldn't locate him. The family contacted the sheri to respond to their home eight miles east of Moscow. The local sheri arrived and immediately called for additional searchers.

The on-scene deputy had found the boy's tracks crossing a field and entering a thick forest area. The tracks were lost in the woods.

Two hundred searchers arrived late in the afternoon and encountered heavy rain and strong winds. Searchers stayed through the night and kept yelling and looking for the boy with their pine torches and flashlights. The night searchers saw nothing and didn't get a response.

The next morning fifty men from the National Guard arrived to help in the search along with mul-tiple Bloodhound teams from Spokane, Washington. Law enforcement was very concerned about the boy's welfare because of freezing temperatures and another violent thunderstorm and rain that hit the area during the night.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., two searchers were in the same plowed field the boy initially crossed. The men were one-quarter mile from the residence and found the child in a furrow. He was alive and in very good condition.

A May 27 article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune had this description of the boy and his condition: "Despite the fact he was in the timber all night, according to the belief of persons who had stalked the field where he was found, a physician this afternoon said the boy had su ered no ill e ects, despite the below freezing temperatures last night. The belief is that the boy had never gotten more than a half mile from home. The absence of all signs of having suf-fered from the cold convinced searchers the boy had spent the night under cover."

You might want to read this paragraph again.

The night prior to the boy being found, the area around the Hamerly residence had been inundated with freezing rain from a major thunderstorm. It's unrealistic to believe that a two-year-old boy wouldn't su er from exposure after being out in these elements. Dailey su ered no ill e ects. The searchers believed that the boy must not have been out in the weather that night, somehow.

Why didn't Dailey respond to the two hundred searchers in the area yelling his name during the night? Was he even in the area during the night?

Why didn't multiple Bloodhounds find the boy?

Frank Lobears (Son)

Missing: 06/25/1933, Chamberlain Basin, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 7 years

Frank Lobears' father owned two mining claims, four miles apart, approximately 165 miles north of McCall, Idaho. The claims are in rugged country that still had snow in late June of 1933. The closest ranger station to the Lobears' claims is the Big Creek Ranger Station.

On June 25,1933, the seven-year-old son of Frank Lobears put on snowshoes and started the four-mile trek across the snow to visit his mother at the other mining claim. It appears Frank didn't know his son had left and then didn't realize his son never arrived at the other claim until Tuesday, June 27.

Searchers from both mines immediately started the search for the young boy. Approximately two miles from the point the boy was last seen, searchers found two snowshoes that the boy had apparently removed. At that location the prints in the snow stopped and he went to hard ground. Searchers could not find any additional tracks anywhere.

Ten days after the Lobears boy disappeared, and an unbelievable fifteen miles of tracking through the bush and ground, searchers found his handkerchief in the desolate headwaters of Hand Creek. The Hand Creek site is approximately six air miles from the origin of the boy's trek.

On July 6 Idaho Governor Ross stated, "It looks as if we never will find the boy." State airplanes, ground troops, volunteers, law enforcement o icers and almost every other search mechanism available in 1933 were part of the attempt to find the boy. On July 7,1933, the search for Frank Lobears' son was terminated.

Remember the fact that the handkerchief was found in a creek bed. Many of the people who disappear are found in or near creek beds.

Bobby Rush

Missing 07/21/1935, 4:00 p.m., Sage Creek, Athol Age at disappearance: 2 years

There are few cases that I document that get mass publicity, make worldwide news and stay in the public eye for decades; this is one.

The location of this incident is Sage Creek, four miles southeast of the small city of Athol and six miles south of Lake Pend Oreille. The creek is just ten air miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene, but it is still a remote

area even today.

In 1935, Athol was just a speck on the map; today, it is home to Sherwood Theme Park, drawing thousands from Spokane and Coeur d'Alene.

In July of 1935, Athol was home to Mr. and Mrs. Rush and their two-year-old boy, Bobby, and their three other children, (Two children older than Bobby and one were 15 months old). Mr. Rush was a logger that was working at a nearby mill. On Sunday, July 21, 1935, Mr. Rush had the day o of work, and the family got together with Bobby Rush's uncle and cousin and their family to celebrate the birthday of both. Then, they traveled the short distance to Sage Creek to pick Huckleberries. The creek is located in the mountains above Athol in a rugged area, thick with brush and foliage and great for berry picking.

The families drove the dirt road to their spot, grouped their kids in a small open patch, and went o to pick. This July 22, 1935 edition of the Spokane Chronicle described what happened, "The baby was left playing with other children at a picnic ground on the creek, while parents picked berries, they reported. When they returned after an hour's absence, the other picnic party stated that the baby had vanished. The baby probably did not fall into the creek and drown as the body would have lodged in a windfall below the picnic grounds, according to searchers." Other articles indicated that the approximately 12 children playing with Bobby were questioned extensively by deputies. None of them saw him leave, nor did they see anyone else in the area. It was approximately 4:00 p.m. that the families called the sheri and reported that Bobby was missing.

The response by law enforcement to this incident was tremendous, as is described in this July 24, 1935 article in the Idaho Stateman, “A posse of nearly 300 CCC workers, deputy sheri s, game department o icers and private citizens aided by Bloodhounds have been unable to find a trace of the tot who disappeared Sunday afternoon while his parents were picking Huckle-berries nearby.” The article describes that the family had consulted a psychic who stated their boy was abducted. There were also unsubstantiated rumors of a vehicle speeding from the scene around the time Bobby was lost.

The search for the young boy went on daily with massive numbers of assistance from local citizens, law enforcement, firefighters, and search and rescue personnel.

There was a very odd turn in the case as is described in the July 28, 1935 edition of the Spokesman-Review, “A scribbled postcard note, “Your baby is O.K. Don’t worry.” was received here tonight by Mrs. A.W. Rush and Deputy H.W. Haner, Coeur d’Alene, said it convinced o icers a revenge kidnapping in the disappearance of 2-year-old Bobby Rush a week ago. Mrs. Rush said the note was scribbled in “old fashioned writing on a postcard, which was mailed in an envelope. She said it was postmarked on a Spokane-Pendleton, Oregon train and was mailed yesterday. The note was unsigned.” The article said that the Rush family had no assets, was poor, and had been on public assistance at times. So the thought that someone kidnapped the boy for ransom wasn’t prudent.

Dirt Road to Sage Creek

The area in and around Sage Creek looked like a small city for the two weeks after Bobby Rush vanished. The August 10, 1935 edition of the Tacoma Daily Ledger had this update on the search, " Nineteen days after he disappeared into the timbered wilderness of Upper Sage Creek, no trace had been found today of Bobby Rush, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Rush of Athol, Idaho. None of the searching parties, which at times numbered 300 persons, was in the field today, and the sheri 's o icer at Coeur D' Alene said it had been unable to find a single clue to the baby's disappearance."

In the disappearances of small children, the longer the case remains unsolved, some family members will clutch to the idea that the child was kidnapped; it keeps the child alive in their mind and still gives them hope. Unfortunately, this exact scenario rolls out almost every time there is a significant case without resolution.

Several articles had stated that the department of justice had entered the case and was looking at all angles of the disappearance, including interstate kidnapping; this idea was described in this August 20, 1935 article in the Spokane Chronicle, "Although local o icers long ago entered the disappearance of 2-year-old Bobby Rush from the upper reached of Sage Creek, Idaho, July 21, as "unsolved," department of justice operatives are reported to be carrying on the search, it was learned here today." As it turned out, the department of justice had been investigating this case for many weeks and would level an opinion in the years to come.

Any hope federal agencies were going to be successful in helping the Rush family in finding their son was eliminated and is described in this July 23, 1937 article in the Spokesman-Review, "Sheri S.J. McMillan said the department of justice agents told him the case was closed as far as they were concerned. But still, there is no conclusion expressed." Two years after Bobby disappears, the DOJ washes their hands of the case and walks away. The agent's statement means the agency found no substance to the human abduction theory, but it didn't give clarity about what the feds thought happened. Later in the same article was this, " Not a trace was found. Sage Creek was cleared of obstacles that might have hidden the body of the boy if he had drowned. Airplanes circled the area, and trained dogs failed to pick up the boy's scent. Federal agents became involved in the case."

Searchers eliminated the creek as a location that hid Bobby's body. Canines could not locate any scent trail leaving the area. Professional trackers had not found any unusual animal tracks in the area (Bear, Cougar, etc.) Federal agents had eliminated kidnapping as a possibility of what happened to the boy. The children that were with Bobby had not seen anyone in the area where they were playing. Law enforcement had continued to run into a brick wall in their comprehensive investigation.

The disappearance of a young child is a challenging situation for any marriage to survive; this incident took a toll on the Rush's. In August of 1939, Mrs. Rush filed for divorce against Mr. Rush for failing to provide for his family. However, in the court paperwork, it was expressed that Mrs. Rush still felt that there was the possibility Bobby was still alive.

One of the last articles to discuss the Rush case was in the July 21, 1953 edition of the Times-News; it contained a fascinating perspective from the first deputy on scene, "Also remembering the case well, but di ering with Haner as to the child's fate is Adolph Molstead, now county commissioner, who as a deputy sheri was the first o icer to go to the scene after a search by Bobbie's family and friends were unsuccessful. "It was just at dusk that Sunday afternoon when I got there, and then for the next week, there was no letup in the search for the child." Mol- stead commented, "No, I don't believe a cougar got the child, but I wish I knew what happened to him." The thoughts of the first deputy on the scene are significant. These deputies work in that area, know the region, wildlife, threats, etc. The ideas of what happened to Bobby ran the gamut from kidnapping (no facts supporting this), animal predation (No evidence to support it), or walked into the wilderness and wasn't found. The thought that Bobby walked far enough in these steep mountains to get out of range of searchers does not seem plausible. I've been to this area and can confirm the hills are rugged. You couple the topography with the fact that multiple dog teams couldn't come up with a scent trail leaving the area makes this possibility minimal.

I have written chapters in past books about missing berry pickers and have made this a sub-group of the missing: the most common berry to be picking when someone disappears, Huckleberries.

Just ten air miles southwest of Sage Creek and forty-nine years later was the highly suspicious disappearance of Ryan Heo liger from Hayden Lake, Idaho. The geographical proximity of both cases is to be noted. Ryan's story is later in this book.

I wish I had a cogent theory that I could support about what happened to Bobby. But, unfortunately, if the deputies working the case can't develop a rational idea of what happened to the two-year-old, my thoughts would be a mere guess.

Profile Points: Berry Picking- Water- Point of Separation-Lack of Scent Trail

Grover Wray

Missing: 11/05/1938, Nez Perce National Forest, ID Age at disappearance: 27 years

Weather • Hunter • Previously Searched

The region of this disappearance has had several people vanish without a trace. I've studied maps representing the area where the people go missing, and it doesn't seem rational that they either were not found, or they ended up in areas that didn't make sense.

On November 5, 1938, Grover Wray was hunting with his dad and a group of two friends 35 miles northeast of Kooskia, Idaho in the Moose Creek area of the Nez Perce National Forest. Articles stated that Grover somehow got separated from other hunters and his dad and was lost, point of separation. The friends looked for him for several days until they realized he couldn't be found and they needed assistance. The USFS was formally notified November 8. There was a formal 6-day search for the young man that included 25 men on foot trying to make their way through heavy snow. The search focused on the area around their camp on Moose Creek. They could not locate anything related to Grover. A November 21, 1938, article in the Idaho Times described what happened next, "Wray strayed from a party of hunting companions near the Moose Creek District and disappeared. A search by land failed to find any trace of him. Shortly after he vanished, heavy snow blanketed the area." Later in the same article it documents that the governor of Idaho, Governor Clark, told his aeronautics commissioner to take two observers and search the area and fly it; they did and found nothing.

Shortly after the search was terminated, Grover Wray's family from Weiser, Idaho posted a $500 reward for anyone who could find him.

Nothing happened on this case for almost 2 years. A fellow resident of Weiser told Grangeville, Idaho coroner that he had a dream and believed he knew where Grover was located. The coroner, Glen Ailor, went with the dreamer and the October 21, 1940, article in the Post

Register documents what happened next, “Ailor returned Sunday from the Meeker creek area where the remains were found and said the skeleton showed no evidence of gunshot wounds. Ailor said that Sam Seiber of Weiser reported he found the skeleton as a result of a dream.” Later in the same article is this, “To satisfy his curiosity he went to the creek,” Ailor added. “Pursuing his hunch, he traveled three miles before he found the skeleton. It was practically at the head of the creek. Explaining his contention that Wray could not have been lost, Ailor said the remains were found in the stream beside which his friends had camped just two and a quarter-miles downstream, and it was less than a mile from the spot where the party’s horse had been tied the day Wray disappeared. The entire ravine is open, Ailor said, with no trees and only light brush, and Wray could “almost” have seen the horse from the point where the skeleton was found.” You might want to read this paragraph again.

Grover Wray was found in an area that was previously searched, was close to his camp, and very close to the camp horse. Every hunter and outdoorsman knows that creeks flow downhill and many put their camps next to creek as it’s an easy location to find from either ridge you may be on. If you are in the valley, you look up on the ridge, get your orientation, and easily find the camp.

There was never a mention on what Coroner Ailor believed may have been the cause of Grover’s death.

For first time readers of my books, the story of Sam Seiber having a dream and walking to the body may seem far-fetched, it’s not. I have lost track of the number of times this exact scenario has panned out, and a missing person is found because of a dream.

There are many unanswered questions that the discovery of the body did not answer. Why didn’t Grover see his horse, essentially within eyesight? Why didn’t he walk downstream to his camp? Why didn’t he shoot o three rounds, the international hunter’s distress call? Why didn’t searchers find him in their multi-day SAR? What happens in our world that propagates someone to have a dream about someone they don’t know, yet have the drive to walk through the wilderness and find a body?

Jim Amos

Missing 10/09/1943, Big Creek

Age at disappearance: 16 years

Jim Amos was a 16-year-old living in New Plymouth, Idaho, just north of Boise. The young man lived with his family, which included his older brother Dick. He loved the outdoors and specifically enjoyed hunting with his brother and family members.

On Friday, October 8, Jim, Dick, and their uncle, J.E. King, left New Plymouth and made the 120 miles drive through the mountains to Big Creek just northeast of McCall. The trio had been hunting in the past, and on this trip, they were looking for deer.

The group arrived in the Elk Creek area just outside of Big Creek and established their camp. The three hunters left camp very early on Saturday morning and returned at near noon to have lunch. Jim ate and decided to head back into the forest with his rifle to continue hunting while his brother and uncle stayed in camp. Dick and J.E. returned to camp late in the afternoon and didn't find Jim. The pair searched the area, fired three rounds into the air, and later in the evening drove into Big Creek and notified law enforcement.

Valley County Sheri Merlin Francis arrived at the hunter's campsite and took charge of the search. He made calls as far as McCall getting searchers to the scene. He notified Dan Levan the regional manager of the United States Forest Service, and he rallied more men. The searches were centered in the middle and south forks of Elk Creek above Big Creek. Search-ers were battling steep mountains, thick woods, and freezing temperatures.

Jim's disappearance soon got back to New Plymouth, and his family responded, bringing the family dog. On October 15, the canine was put into the woods on the trail where the hunter was last seen, hoping it would pick up a scent. Dan Levan made the following statement in the October 15,1943 edition of the Idaho Statesman, "Searchers had covered the head and both sides of Big Creek and the headwaters of its tributaries (Elk Creek) without success. He said that storms had probably obliterated scents of the boy which could be picked up by his dog and that the weather had made a search from the air impractical, but that he did not believe the search would be abandoned." There were notations that the weather eventually broke and that a pilot flew the region looking for any sign of a hunter and found nothing.

Levan made several comments during the week indicating that he did not believe that Jim could've been alive after three days in the wild. The weather was so cold and snowy that based on Jim's experience and the attire he was wearing, the chances of survival were minimal.

The search for Jim Amos lasted a week. Hundreds of ground searchers scoured miles of forest in and around Big Creek, Elk Creeks, and the surrounding mountains without finding anything related to Jim.

There were subsequent articles written about Jim Amos in 1944; all stated that the boy was never found.

Profile Points: Point of Separation, Hunter, Water

Dan O'Brien

Missing 10/29/1943, Lowman

Age at disappearance: 60 Years

This story presented itself as odd almost from the beginning. It had me hooked just an hour into researching the victim. I'll place a note here that articles listed several di erent ages for the victim. The majority stated he was 60 years old.

Dan O'Brien was a boilermaker and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in Nampa, Idaho. Late in October of 1943, Dan, his son, and his son-in-law made the 89-mile drive from Nampa to their friend's cabin on Pikes Fork Creek, approximately seven miles southeast of Lowman. Unfortunately, many articles have the location misidentified as northeast of Lowman, which is incorrect.

The men were deer hunting and knew the area well. They were staying at a friend's cabin on a ridge just above the creek. On October 29, 1943, the three men left the cabin together to hunt. At approximately noon, the group decided to split up and go in di erent directions. The guys agreed to meet back at the cabin at a specific time. Dan's son, Tom, and Albert Overy (son-in-law) met at the residence, and Dan never arrived. The sheri was notified of the disappearance, and a search was immediately started.

WEATHER HALTS SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN

Weather halts search The Lowman regional Ranger with the United States Forest Service took charge of the e ort to locate Dan. He was advised that the hunter was in good condition and carrying just two apples. Three days into the SAR, temperatures dropped into the low 20's, and searchers were pulled from the woods for fear of the freezing temperatures. Days later, the SAR was started again, and 20 men covered thousands of acres and crossed multiple creeks to locate anything related to Dan. Finally, after a week of comprehensive SAR

activities, the e ort to find Dan was over.

Dan's relatives returned to Nampa, heartbroken that they couldn't locate the head of the family.

In June of 1944, there was an additional search e ort to locate the missing hunter. Dan's wife organized the search, and his son and son-in-law were there to direct searchers. Many of Dan's friends from the railroad participated in the SAR.

A highly unusual event occurred on this second effort to locate Dan as is described in the June 8, 1944 article in the Idaho Statesman, "Gordon Keith Lloyd, 30 was accidentally killed Sunday six miles northeast of Lowman while he was participating in the search for the body of Dan O'Brien, who has been missing since a hunting trip October 29, R. J. Mellor, Boise County Coroner said Monday. Lloyd's death was caused by su ocation after he had fallen from a log and su ered head injuries and a concussion. He fell facedown and died before other members of the searching party reached him, the coroner said. He was found by Woody Owen and B. Randall, both of Nampa." Lloyd was a co-worker of Dan O'Brien and just trying to be a good soul and find the remains of his friend.

In the thousands of search and rescue reports I have read over the last 12 years, I have never heard of anything similar to the fate of Gordon Lloyd. It doesn't make sense to me that he only su ered a concussion but apparently knocked him unconscious. Lloyd was searching by himself and was left alone for some time after he fell. The coroner is claiming that after he dropped that he was not breathing. I find this scenario with the associated medical condition very hard to believe.

The second search for Dan found nothing and was terminated after ten days.

This case had no activity until August 28,1948. An August 30, 1948, article, in the Idaho Statesman had these details, "Sheri Fred Richardson of Boise County reported Saturday that remains of a man thought to have been Dan O'Brien, 58 of Nampa, who vanished October 29, 1943, on a deer hunting trip, were found near the head of Jackson Creek west of the Jackson Peak Lookout." The number of times articles got the location wrong is epic. Jackson Peak is southwest of Loman. Pikes Fork Creek, where the men were staying, is southeast of Loman. Highway 21 separates both locations, meaning O'Brien would have had to cross the highway to go from where he was hunting to where he was found, a lengthy trip of over 12 miles,

hmm.

The finding of Dan's body was shocking to many. The sheri contacted Dan's son and advised him that they had found a skeleton, a model 1903 Springfield rifle serial #573146, a red hunting cap, one Army shoe, bib overalls, pipe and tobacco, army field jacket, white socks, car keys, knife, and a Union Pacific switch key. Tom O'Brien stated that his dad was carrying those items when he disappeared.

The sheri explained that George Hayton and George Aransolo were sheepherders, and their flock had worked their way through the area, and they stumbled across the remains.

Let's review this complicated event. The original hunters leave a cabin, hunt together until noon, and go out separately (Point of Separation). In almost every article, a creek was mentioned where the men were hunting (water). A subgroup that I have written an entire book about, hunters, was the activity these men were engaged in. Additionally, searchers were pulled out of the forest because the weather had turned too cold (weather issues). One small point that nobody wants to address is where was Dan's other boot. I have spoken with many SAR o icials, and one item that always will be with the remains is boots. They seem to last forever in the wild, but where was Dan's second boot (Missing Shoes). Lastly, the coroner could not determine the cause of death, a common element in the cases I document. The distance that Dan's body was located from the place he was searching is so far outside the realm of possibilities is the reason he wasn't found in the first and subsequent searches, a piece to the puzzle that can't be ignored.

Gordon Lloyd would be near the top of the list if I had another category for odd deaths. However, for all of these elements to be involved in one overriding incident is exceptionally bizarre.

If you refer to the missing map, you will notice two additional cases just south of the location of where Dan disappeared.

Joe Schaefer

Missing 10/22/1946, Ponds Lodge

Age at disappearance: 50 years

Some of you may not realize that a tiny sliver of Yellowstone National Park is located in Idaho. This incident happened just five miles from the confluence of the Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming borders and

Yellowstone Park. This area is popular with hunters because wildlife tends to stay near or in National parks for safety; when they linger out of protection, a hunter will be waiting. This case occurred in the Caribou Targhee National Forest.

In October of 1946, Joe Schaefer was a truck driver living in Wapello just north of Pocatello. Mr. Schaefer loved the outdoors and, specifically, elk hunting. On October 21,1946, Joe had traveled to Partridge Creek just southeast of Ponds Lodge for elk hunting. He had met his friends, the Brunson's of Blackfoot, where they established a camp for their hunting excursion.

The October 25, 1946 article in the Register had these details about what transpired, "Schaefer had been hunting with men identified only as the Brunson's of Blackfoot. When Schaefer returned to camp Thursday evening and found the Brunson's still out, he went back to search for them. They reported in to camp later, and then Schaefer failed to show up, the game department o icer reported. The weather Friday was termed too poor to permit using planes." Other news agencies had reported two snowstorms to hit that area since Schaefer vanished.

Dogs Now to Enter Search for Lost Pocatello Hunter

Multiple planes were standing by outside of Pocatello, waiting to fly once the weather cleared to aid in the search. The Idaho Statesman of November 1, 1946, had these details of the SAR, "Cal Smith Fremont County Sheri Thursday completed plans to send dogs into the search for Joe Schaefer, Pocatello hunter lost in the Rugged Partridge Creek area near here since October 22, Smith did not say what breed of dogs that would be used."

On November 4, the sheri posted a reward of $100 for the finding of Joe Schaefer. The article also stated that many of Joe's trucking company members had put their employment on hold and entered the wilderness looking for their friend. On November 14, the search was still ongoing. This was an incredible e ort to locate a missing hunter for 1946: planes, canines, hundreds of ground pounders, almost 12 days of endless searching. The search finally ended in mid-November without finding anything related to Mr. Schaefer.

There were no additional details about the case until a June 20 article in the Post Register, which gave these details, " The coroner reported Thursday that he and deputy Sheri Lloyd Smith had gone to Pineview Thursday where they were shown articles picked up Wednesday night

by Walter Preston, Pineview logger. The articles belonged to the missing hunter (Schaefer). The articles included a hunting license bearing Mr. Schaefer's name, a hunting knife, pieces of cloth-ing, and several shells. Little remained of the body, Preston told o icers. According to the story said to the coroner, Mr. Preston found the remains of the hunter at the foot of a six hundred shale cli next to a creek. The gun the hunter carried at the time could not be found. Coroner Hansen said there is a strong possibility that Mr. Schaefer may have fallen o the cli .

The June 20 article was followed by another article on June 22 that stated that Mr. Schaefer had a fractured skull that was believed he received from falling from the cli . They also explained that the hunter was located in the area where he disappeared, Partridge Creek. Finally, this June 22, 1947 article in the Times-News had a very interesting piece of information, "Several searching parties, following the creek, passed not more than 10 or 15 feet from where the remains were found."

I have always believed that people in the outdoors always are more cautious when they are alone than when they travel with a companion. Unfortunately, the number of deaths I have documented where someone fell is remarkably high. I have found these incidents very suspicious for a variety of reasons, located in a location previously searched; did they fall?

One article implied that searchers were walking up the middle of the creek during the search, doubtful for the middle of November. I would think they followed the creek, but in it, I don't think so.

Why didn't canines find the hunter? How did many searchers pass directly by the remains and not see Joe? What happened to his rifle?

Profile Points- Canines, No Scent Trail- No Tracks- Hunter- Water-Fell-Granite-Area Previ-ously Searched

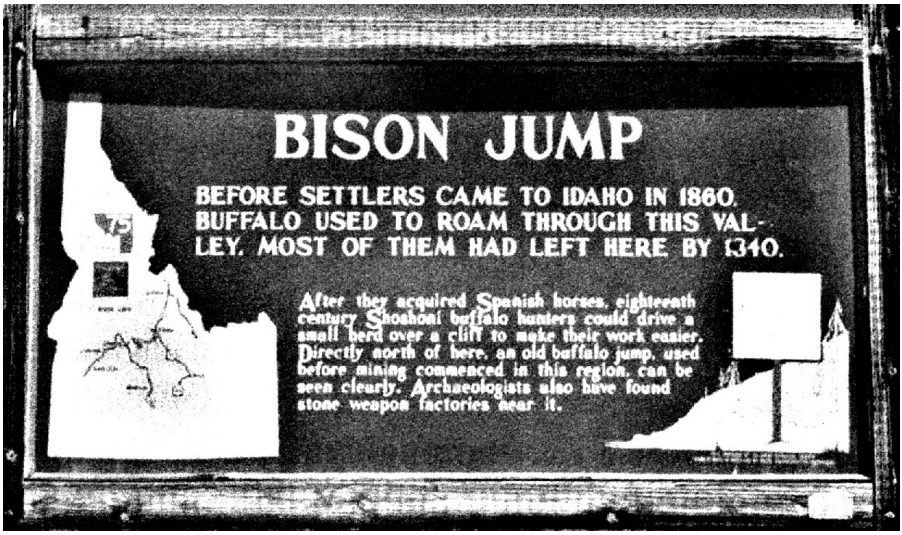
Walter Bonnicksen

Missing 03/27/1948, Yankee Fork Region

Age at disappearance: 65 years

The region that this incident happened is called the Yankee Fork. The ground in this area is rich in minerals, and when this happened, it was famous for gold mining. This area was originally occupied by the Shoshoni, who would harvest Bison in methods that may have never

been heard of before (See Photo Insert).


BISON JUMP
BEFORE SETTLERS CAME TO IDAHO IN 1860, BUFFALO USED TO ROAM THROUGH THIS VALLEY. MOST OF THEM HAD LEFT HERE BY 1340.
After they acquired Spanish horses, eighteenth century Shoshoni buffalo hunters could drive a small herd over a cliff to make their work easier. Directly north of here, an old buffalo jump, used before mining commenced in this region, can be seen clearly. Archaeologists also have found stone weapon factories near it.

In March of 1948, Walter Bonnicksen was working a mining claim in the Yankee Fork Region. This area is now famous for Yankee Fork State Park, Challis, Clayton, and Sunbeam. The Salmon River is the predominant freshwater source for each of the significant locations. The mines are located in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

The mine that Walter was working was higher in the mountains and a few miles from the river. These mountains are steep, with lots of rock and quartz, and not easily maneuvered through, especially in 1948.

In late March of 1948, William Bonnicksen (Walter's brother) made a trip from California to the mine to visit his brother. William wasn't exactly sure where the cabin for the mine was located, so he had a local, Rodger Davis walked him into the site. The men arrived at the residence on March 27, 1948. William was expecting to see his brother hard at work and instead found everything quiet. Nobody was working the mine, and nobody was at the cabin. He entered the log home and found nothing unusual inside except a large amount of money. Further searching found that the only things that seemed to be missing would be the clothes and boots that Walter was wearing and his rifle.

Walter and Rodger thoroughly searched the mine and cabin and determined there was no failure inside the mine, and nothing was obviously wrong at the residence. The pair hiked out and contacted Custer County, Sheri Lee Clark.

Sheri Clark called in resources from neighboring cities and friends of

Walter's to assist in searching the mountain for the prospector. The sheri didn't believe a crime had occurred because no cash was missing from the cabin. Some people thought that Walter had gone out hunting and was injured; others thought he might have been attacked by a mountain lion. There was no evidence to support either hypothesis.

Custer County did a respectable 7-day search for Walter that had over 50 men assisting. They also had a private plane fly over the area for a day, and neither e ort found anything. An April 29, 1948 article in the Idaho Statesman had this statement from Sheri Clark, "We've searched everywhere and have no clues to his whereabouts."

There were searches later into the spring after additional snowmelt; Walter was not found.

The location of this case was just 15 air miles from the disappearance of Robert Swaner.

Profile Points: Weather, Water, Never found.

Judd McWilliams

Missing: 9/15/1948, forty miles southeast of Lewiston, ID

Age at disappearance: 82 years

Judd McWilliams moved to his ranch in Middle Bench, Idaho, over fifty years prior to his disappearance on September 15, 1948. He raised a family, and the family moved out of the area, leaving just Judd.

That day, neighbors went to the residence and could not locate Mr. McWilliams. Neighbors soon realized that they hadn't seen the eighty-two-year-old man in several days, and they contacted his son, Don, who was living in San Francisco, California. Don hired a private investigator to continue the search for his dad, which the county terminated after just a few days of searching and finding nothing.

After several days of searching, the private investigator found Judd's rifle on his land amid a series of downed logs deep into his property. A thorough search of the area failed to find any evidence of what happened to the eighty-two-year-old rancher. I completed a long-term archival search without finding any resolution to the disappearance of Judd.

Summary

The private investigator did a remarkable job of finding Mr. McWilliams's rifle one-quarter of a mile from his residence. Finding the rifle among downed logs can mean several things, but I believe that it does confirm that Judd was out in that area hunting for something when something tragic and overwhelming happened. There were never reports of a crime scene or of blood, hair, or tissue found, which would tell us if a large predator jumped Judd. We may never know what happened to him. It almost appears as though Judd was snatched and was forced to drop the firearm.

It is also an unusual coincidence that Judd's rifle was found in an area of downed logs, a region where missing children are often found.

Eddie Grant

Missing 10/05/1949-PM, 30 miles east of Grangeville, ID

Age at Disappearance: 22 years

I have written about this area of Idaho in Missing 411-Western United States. There are other hunters and hikers that have disappeared in the Nez Perce National Forest under highly unusual circumstances. The exact location of this incident is thirty miles east of Grangeville, near the Montana border. The forest in the area of Pilot Knob (where this occurred) is mostly old growth forest and very thick. On October 5, 1949, in the afternoon hours, Eddie Grant was in a mountainside hunting camp when he told friends William McMahon and Bill Young he was going out to hunt on his own. When Eddie didn't return that night, an extensive search was initiated.

Almost from the start of the search, the Idaho National Guard participated in the event in a huge way. There were also military personnel from Lewiston that responded and committed to the search. The military flew multiple aerial reconnaissance missions of the area, and Bloodhounds responded and covered the ground in an e ort to find a scent. It was reported by multiple news sources that the canines never found a scent. An October 17, 1949, article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune had the following details about the feeling of search authorities: "Meanwhile, Glenn Ailor, Grangeville, Idaho, county coroner, suggested Grant may have met with foul play. He said an investigation of that possibility was in progress. Ailor declared the region where Grant was last seen, near Baldy Mountain, about 30 miles east of here is country a man could easily walk out of." A

statement like this from a public authority is sobering. This means it is generally felt that something unusual happened to Eddie.

On the thirty-ninth day of searching for Eddie Grant, his friends made a stunning find. A Novem-ber 16, 1949, article in the Spokesman Review had this: “The 39-day search for Eddie Grant is over. A trio of searchers, Marvin and Milton Grant and Earl Pea, found the body of the 22-year-old Gi ord hunter where he had apparently tripped over a tree limb, fell to the ground too exhausted to rise again to his feet and died of exposure. His rifle, chaps, hat, hunting knife and scabbard were gone, presumably left somewhere along his aimless trail. His boots had been slashed open and his feet were severely wounded, apparently due to the desperate e orts of a frantic man to relieve pressure on his feet, swollen by miles of wandering aimlessly in search of civilization.” The body was found in an unnamed creek on the northwest slope of Baldy Mountain, just one and a half miles from the hunting camp. Searchers did find one eight-millimeter expended cartridge one mile from the body.

Summary

Eddie’s friends and family should be commended for never giving up on finding their friend and relative. The first thing that came into my mind when I read this was why would anyone remove his chaps? A hunter knows that his rifle is his lifeline to survival and signaling searchers; why dispose of it? Searchers stated that Eddie’s boots had been “slashed” open. Why would his boots be opened in that manner when you could just untie them? How could Eddie have slashed his boots open if he didn’t have a knife? If your boots are bothering you while hiking, you don’t loosen them; you tighten them, especially if you are in cold weather. If Eddie’s feet were mangled, maybe he wasn’t wearing boots while he was hiking?

Eddie was found on the side of a mountain in a creek. If Eddie was on one of the tallest mountains in the area (and he was), why didn’t aircraft discover him?

The position in which the searchers found the body is also suspect. I have read numerous descriptions of the manner in which bodies are found and how they fall straight on their faces. It almost sounds as though the body is placed in that position.

The coroner stated that Eddie died of exposure, but it didn’t give the time or date of death. There were never any articles that stated searchers found any of Eddie’s personal articles.

Early in the search for Eddie, a search authority stated that it was possible that Eddie had met with foul play. Articles never addressed this theory after the body was found. I would refer readers to other stories I have documented about hunters missing under highly unusual circumstances. I would classify the disappearance of Eddie Grant as extremely unusual.

Walter Pope

Missing: 10/05/1949—5:00 p.m., Salmon, ID

Age at disappearance: 45 years

I continually preach to hikers and hunters at conferences to always go into the wilderness with friends; do not go out alone. When I initially started the research on this case, it appeared that the hunters were practicing safe hunting principles; as I dug deeper, the paradigm shifted.

Walter Pope was a 45-year-old outdoorsman who was a resident of Salmon, Idaho and lived with his mother. He was not married and did not have children. He spent his life in the outdoors and was employed by the United States Forest Service.

On October 5, 1949, Walter traveled by car with two friends, W. S. Ames and John Chacon from Salmon to an area called Moose Creek outside of Lemhi, Idaho. The exact location of the incident was 25 miles north of Salmon. Search headquarters were established at Dump Creek. Lemhi should ring a bell with followers of Missing 411: The Movie. Two-year-old Deorr Kunz disappeared from a campsite outside of Lemhi.

The friends entered the forest and decided to split up to hunt and meet back at the car at 5:00 p.m. Chacon and Ames made it back to the car, not Pope. Walter's friends searched for him for several hours and then left to get more assistance. The forests service pulled out all of the resources possible to find Walter. They brought in two specially trained Bloodhounds from Hamilton, Montana to try to sni out a location. Planes were also requested and had to turn back because of bad weather.

There was a 15-day search to find Walter Pope, quite an e ort for 1949. The forest service did everything possible to locate their employee and came up empty. Readers need to understand that the

local forest service o ice knows their forests better than anyone. The fact that they couldn't locate Walter even with the assistance of friends that knew his approximate location is surprising.

Profile Points: Hunter • Weather • Canines

Bryan Warner

Missing: 10/01/51, Fog Mountain

Age at disappearance: 40

Weather • Canines • Hunter

Bryan Warner was a longtime resident and miner that lived in Orogrande, Idaho. He had a claim near Orogrande, but he was hunting on Fog Mountain, two miles north of the Selway River and northeast of Orogrande.

In early October 1951, a snowstorm hit mid-Ida- ho and trapped many hunters in the high wilderness. The local sheri s were scrambling to save almost a dozen men reported missing; one of those was Bryan Warner. The October 9, 1951 edition of the Great Falls Tribune had these details about Bryan's disappearance, "Bryan Warner an Orogrande, Idaho miner disappeared in the Fog Mountain area." The area where Bryan vanished is very thick with trees, has steep mountains, and is a hunting location that is not easy.

Bryan had gone elk hunting in an area he knew like his backyard, Fog Mountain. Nobody truly be-lieved he was lost; some thought he might have had an injury and couldn't move. The local sheri initially dispatched two airplanes that flew for two days, finding nothing. The October 10, 1951, Ogden Standard Newspaper had these details, "Bloodhounds were called o because rains had obliterated any scent left by Ray Agee, Twin Falls attorney and Bryan Warner, Orogrande miner when they disappeared last Monday." The storm quickly turned to snow, and 10-14 inches fell in the following days, essentially eliminating the e ort to locate Bryan. Roy Agee was found 17 days after he vanished.

One of the people who was a constant figure in the search for Bryan was his brother, Jack. He searched every day for two weeks showing a tireless e ort from a family member.

Despite the e orts of ground searchers, canines, airplanes, and family members, Bryan Warner was never found.

**This is the exact mountain that Connie Johnson disappeared in 2018.

James Madison

Missing 9/11/1952-6:00 p.m., Nez Perce National Forest, ID

Age at disappearance: 67 years

There are a few cases where I've written about hunters who disappeared under extremely strange circumstances. James Madison was a lifetime hunter and outdoorsman and was one of the few individuals who nobody would have thought could get lost.

James was camping with his good friend Claude Bu alo in an area fourteen miles east of the Red River Ranger Station in the Nez Perce National Forest.

This was a remote location. The men wanted to get an early jump on hunting season. The season would start on September 15.

At approximately 6:00 p.m. on September 11, Jim and Claude established their camp. They planned to hike the following three days and find the perfect spot to drop their game. James knew they needed water, and he headed for the creek with a bucket and his rifle. After almost thirty minutes, Claude became concerned for his friend and started looking for him. He called Jim's name throughout the night and heard nothing. The following morning Claude drove to the ranger station and reported Jim missing.

The rangers brought local sheri 's deputies, and they brought Bloodhounds. The searchers found nothing and were getting frustrated. A September 16 headline in the Lewiston Morning Tribune stated it all: "Hounds Stymied in Woods Hunt." The dogs weren't finding a scent trail, and they weren't finding tracks. The search continued.

On September 23 four airmen from the local military transport school took to the air looking for James. The air force was in the sky for two days and saw nothing of value.

On September 24, late in the afternoon, four hikers found something in a remote section of the Salmon River, miles from where everyone thought James would be: a body, facedown, twenty feet from shore in eighteen inches of water. A September 26 article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune had the following description of the body:

“Robertson said death apparently was caused by exhaustion rather than drowning. Madison was clad in underwear and a T-shirt. He was barefooted and the soles of his feet were worn to the bone.” The article further states that he was found fifteen miles from his camp, and it was believed that he walked ten days before reaching the site at the river. The coroner stated that James had been in the water for three to four days.

In total, almost 150 people searched for James. Bloodhounds picked up one scent and tracked it for miles to another hunter. James’s track was never found by the dogs. He was found in an area nobody had believed he would be.

Summary

In the thousands of cases I’ve reviewed, I’ve never read where someone removed their boots and then wore their feet to the bone. I won’t state the obvious here. The weather was moderate at the time of the disappearance, and nobody could explain where James’s clothes went.

There is another case where a boy disappeared when his father and he were in the forest cutting wood. The boy was with his brother, went to get the water, and started to walk back but spilled the load.

His brother continued back to his dad, and the boy went back for more water. After he got the water, he stated (after he was found) that he didn’t recognize where he was and got lost. Could this be a possible explanation for what happened to James Madison? There doesn’t seem to be any logical explanation for many of the things that James experienced. This area of Idaho has many strange disappearances.

Catherine Painter Maynard

Missing: 01/19/1953, White Bird, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 38

Operating a cattle ranch is a di icult task for any man, but how about a single thirty-eight-year-old woman operating on the edge of the Nez Perce National Forest? Catherine Painter Maynard was not your typical city female. She was living on and running a fully operational cattle ranch twelve miles east of White Bird on Skookumchuck Creek. Catherine had her mom living with her, running the household.

White Bird, Idaho On January 12, 1953, Catherine realized that a few of her cattle had gone missing. Catherine took her cow pony and rode o into the wilds to look for her cattle. Late that afternoon snow started to fall and Catherine had not returned. Catherine's mother became very concerned and called other ranchers in the area to assist in a search.

On Wednesday three searchers found Catherine's body sprawled in the snow with no pony in the area. Searchers found a very peculiar site. A January 23, 1953, article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune included the following in bold: "When Mrs. Maynard left home Monday, she was wearing felt boots under her overshoes. When she finally collapsed in the snow, she had removed both overshoes and one of the felt boots."

Her body was found on Banner Ridge twelve miles east of White Bird. Searchers found Catherine's pony tied to a tree two miles from her body. The mortician who did the autopsy, Jesse Robertson, stated that Catherine had su ered from "prolonged confusion preceding exhaustion." Jesse stated on January 22 in the Spokane Daily Chronicle, "Death was due to exhaustion."

Case Summary

This is another case that completely defies logic. We will never know what exactly killed Catherine Maynard, but it was not exhaustion. She was on a ridgeline and she lived in the area. She was less than two miles from her ranch and two miles from her pony; I doubt she was lost. How she got to the location where she was found is the million-dollar question. I do not believe that Catherine would have walked miles without her pony, especially in inclement weather.

The weather had started to turn bad the first night she was missing. I don't believe that Catherine would be taking o her shoes while it was snowing. This is one of the many instances when journalists try to justify a very unusual circumstance to calm community concern. I believe the issue of Catherine's shoes being printed in bold in the newspaper shows there was concern for this fact in the local area.

Many people may completely overlook the issue that brought Catherine out that night. She was looking for missing cattle. We need to ask ourselves where those cattle were and who or what took them.

Allen Lamphere

Missing 11/20/1953, Latah County

Age at disappearance: 67 Years

One of the fascinating parts of investigating these cases is to understand the person behind the story. For example, the victim in this incident would be considered a pillar of his community and someone greatly admired.

Allen Lamphere built a life in Palouse, Washington, a city on the Washington/ Idaho border. Allen and his wife lived in the community, and he held jobs as the city treasurer, banker, and trusted resident. In addition, the Lamphere's had a daughter and son-in-law that lived in Moscow, Idaho.

Early in the week of November 15, 1953, Mrs. Lamphere made her way to Moscow to spend time with her daughter. On Friday, November 20, Allen left their residence for a planned pickup of his wife at their daughter's residence. When the banker didn't arrive at the home that night, Mrs. Lamphere called the Idaho State Police and reported her husband missing.

The disappearance of Mr. Lamphere troubled his family greatly. He had driven from Palouse to Moscow dozens of times, it was a beaten path that he knew very well, and he should not have gotten lost.

Just a few days after Lamphere was reported missing, Latah County deputies found the vehicle with the help of two hunters stalled in deep snow near Camp Laird and the region of the headwaters of Emerald Creek. The November 6, 1953 article in the Spokesman-Review had these details, "The hunters, George Schmitz and Ted Carlson said a light snow had fallen the night before and that the tracks were visible up the road for more than a mile before trailing o into the woods." In addition, the Latah County sheri made a statement to the press that one of the rear tires on the located vehicle had a tire that was almost burned o the rim because someone had been spinning it endlessly.

On November 27, Mrs. Lamphere o ered a $1000 reward for anyone finding her husband. The hope was that the money would keep people in the field searching.

The Latah County Sheri was the head of the SAR e ort, and they rallied teams from the State Patrol, lo communities, and surrounding counties. The sheri brought in equestrians, big trucks, power wagons, and friends and family searched on foot.

Allen's wife had told the sheri that the family patriarch knew this specific area very well and had been here many times. So it was

confusing to them how he had ended up here and not met the wife at her residence.

On November 30, the Latah County Sheri terminated the formal e ort to locate Allen Lamphere. The family was devastated that Allen was lost somewhere in the Hoodoo Mountains and an extensive search was unable to locate him. They vowed to be back in the spring.

On May 19, 1954, the Spokesman-Review ran this article about Allen and the e ort to find him, “The search for Allen Lamphere, missing Palouse Washington businessman, was resumed this week in the St Joe Forest area in northern Latah county. A group of Moscow residents today went into the area where Lamphere was seen last November.” In July of 1954, there was additional information released about the search e ort; they found nothing after weeks in the woods.

Every year this region of the Hoodoo’s is hunted heavily. Hunters go o -trail, crisscross the mountains, and try not to leave any part of the mountain untouched in their e ort to locate elk and deer. Year after year, there was no new news on this case until a November 3, 1958 article in the Spokane Chronicle, “Albert B. Olson, Moscow discovered the skull and another bone while hunting the Beales Butte-Cougar Meadow area about 7 miles from here (Moscow). Lamphere, about 70 disappeared in this area about four years ago.” The sheri took custody of the skull and bone and called the coroner, Will Defenbach. Later in the same article above, “Defenbach said the bones were found at the base of a stump and that the area was darker than the surrounding area, leading the investigators to believe the man may have sat down against the stump died. The skull was in perfect shape, and there was no evidence of foul play.” The article went on to say that other smaller bones were located in the general area but were not identified. No clothes, boots, belt, wallet, or other items were found, which is unusual.

The skull was sent to Allen’s dentist in Palouse, who positively identified the dental work as being done by him. There are several items about this disappearance that troubled me from the start. Allen knew this mountain area well. He also knew the route to his daughter’s house, just an 18-mile jaunt. Why and how did he get so disoriented? I’ve written about many drivers, young and old, that were severely o track and later found in areas that made no sense. If there was an autopsy on Allen’s remains (agreed, they were minimal), I could never find a cause of death or the results.

After talking to hundreds of very senior SAR personnel, I've learned that the inside elastic on underwear can last years in old sites where remains are located. Likewise, all leather items can last decades. Shoes and boots are almost always found within a one hundred-yard radius of the body. The fact that no personal e ects, clothing, and shoes were found with the bones troubles me.

One last point that I want everyone to think about. If you were lost on a mountain road and your car got stuck, which direction would you walk to get out? You'd, of course, follow the road you drove in on. This would eventually take you to safety. So why did Allen leave the roadway?

How did the remains evade detection for five years?

One last important point, the disappearance of Ruben Kleweno documented earlier in this book, happened just miles from where Allen disappeared.

The day after Allen vanished, Lemar Pepmuller, the next story in this book, disappeared. Coincidence?

Lemar Pepmuller

Missing 11/21/1953, 18 miles southwest of Wallace, ID

Age at Disappearance: 22 years

Lemar and his wife moved to Kellogg, Idaho, from Spencer, North Dakota, in November 1952. Lemar enjoyed the outdoors and specifically enjoyed deer hunting. Lemar lived just eight miles from Wallace, and it was just eighteen miles south of Wallace that he found a location to hunt. On November 21, 1953, Lemar left his wife to spend the day hunting in the Slate Creek area south of Wallace.

Wallace didn't return on November 21, and his wife called law enforcement on November 22. Just as searchers started to search for Lemar, the snow started to fall hard and continued for several days until twenty inches of snow were on the ground.

Sheri 's deputies and forest service personnel all contributed in the e ort to locate Lemar. Searchers had no luck locating the hunter or his vehicle for the first few days; then, on Wednesday, lady luck arrived, and they found the vehicle. Sixty search and rescue personnel now converged on the area around the vehicle to look for Lemar.

On the same day searchers found Lemar's car, they found Lemar's body protruding from the snow one mile from his vehicle. Lemar had the backboard to carry a deer on his back but no deer. Beside his car, they found one half a deer carcass, but when they backtracked to where Lemar was located and the scene of the kill, they couldn't find the other half of the carcass, or Lemar's rifle.

A November 26, 1958, article in the Twin Falls Time News had the following information about Lemar's body: "Coroner H. O. Mowery said Pepmuller apparently became exhausted while hunting, collapsed and died." Think about this statement clearly: Lemar wasn't hunting; he was transporting the carcass to the vehicle when something happened. Another article stated that the coroner met the body at the funeral home and pronounced on site he died of a heart attack. There was no autopsy.

Summary

Lemar Pepmuller's death has too many unanswered questions to be closed in a three-paragraph article. What happened to Lemar hasn't been fully explained. There are very few twenty-two-year-old men that die from heart attacks; it's quite rare. What happened in the field that made Lemar so shaken that he died? What happened to the other half of the deer Lemar had killed? Where was Lemar's rifle? Hunters routinely carry their rifle while carrying the car-cass because on your return trip you could walk into a major predator trying to steal your kill. We can only imagine what Lemar saw or ran into on that return trip that gave him a heart attack and took his firearm. There were no notations in any articles indicating Le- mar had been in a struggle, but something took his rifle and deer; what?

Nate Perry

Date Missing: 04/11/1954, 20 Miles west of American Falls

Age at disappearance: 71 years

This is another case that happened in the lava fields in and around Craters of the Moon National Monument. The others case is Bendele, Blakeslee, Linkert, and Hodgson. This cluster is ironic because these people disappeared in such an unusual geological area.

In past books have I have documented many cases of missing sheepherders. This occupation is their own sub-group of missing.

It is tough to explain why a sheepherder would have his herd in a lava

field. I have been in this specific area, and there is very, very little foliage, and the rocks themselves are razor sharp. This April 15, 1954 edition of the Idaho State Journal had details on the search, “The search for a 71-year-old sheepherder went into its fourth day on the desert and lava beds 290 miles west of here (American Falls)which so far has proved fruitless. Approximately 40 men on horseback and foot this morning spread fanlike from the last place where Nate Parry was seen as pilots and watchers combed the area. “ The article went on to say that Claire Rudeen employed Nate to watch her herd of sheep. Mrs. Rudeen last saw Perry on the night of April 11. When she returned on Monday, she couldn’t locate her employee and contacted the sheri .

The sheri pulled out all the practical search options, including a civil air patrol plane, riding clubs from Aberdeen, Rockland, and American Falls. The sheri also brought in multiple deputies from several jurisdictions.

There was an update to the search that was noted in the April 16, 1954 article in the Times-News, “No trace of Nate Perry, 72, was found Thursday although searchers combed the area by plane, jeep, and horseback. Rain has washed out his scent, forcing the abandonment of a plan to use Bloodhounds.” I looked up the annual rainfalls statistics for April in this region; it is 1.1 inches for this month.

The sheri searched for over a week for Nate. It was explained to the press that over fifty square miles of desert and lava beds were combed for the sheepherder without finding anything.

Search for Lost Herder Is Ended Near the end of the search, Nate’s brother, Ira from Twin Falls, arrived and attempted to locate his brother. He told the sheri that Nate was 5’5” tall, weighed about 160 pounds, and good health. He also told the lawman that most of Nate’s family were in the American Falls, Twinn Falls, and San Francisco areas.

The sheri made a great call when he requested the Civil Air Patrol. This area has minimal ground cover, and almost anyone on the ground could be seen from the air. The fact that there were multiple days of air support without finding anything is quite troubling.

Considering there have been four people that have disappeared in this area is very troubling to me. If there was one area where you expect to find people quickly, this is it.

Nate Perry was never found.

Charles Miller Jr.

Missing: 10/10/1954, Soda Springs, ID

Age at disappearance: 25 years

Charles Miller Jr. was a married man living in Roy, Utah. In early October 1954, he made the 175-mile trip north into Arimo, Idaho, where he picked up his brother-in-law, Buddy Campbell. Buddy and Charles made the short drive to Soda Springs and then into the mountains eight miles northeast to the Tin cup area of the Caribou Mountains. This area is just seven miles from the Wyoming border and thirty miles south of Teton National Park. Both men were experienced hunters and were looking for elk.

Charles and Buddy started their hunt on October 10. They left camp and agreed to hunt alone and set a time to meet back at their camp. Buddy made it back on time. Charles did not. Buddy searched for a short time and then drove into Soda Springs to get the sheri .

Almost from the time Charles went missing, snow started to fall, and it got heavier and thicker as time went by. The sheri originally put in equestrians and hikers, and when the weather permitted, the civil air patrol was in the sky.

Charles's wife told law enforcement that her husband was a diabetic and was not carrying his insulin. Because of Charles's medical needs, there was urgency to the search e orts. The sheri called Hill Air Force Base and requested a helicopter. The base agreed but couldn't make it airborne because of the horrendous weather. Later in the search, the sheri learned that Charles was a nonsmoker and was not carrying matches. It seemed as though Charles was not getting any lucky breaks.

Caribou County sheri Ralph Marriott stated that he had searched twenty square miles and had found no trace of Charles. On October 14, the sheri reported that twelve inches of snow had dropped since the time he vanished.

The search e ort had many stops and restarts because of weather and manpower. Finally, on October 22, the search was formally terminated.

The horrific weather inhibited helicopters from covering the sky, and

this is important. A helicopter can hover and slowly do flyovers in areas where there would be a high probability of him being there. Planes have to continue flying; helicopters can hover. It's hard to understand how a man at the height of his physical abilities can disappear and not be found. There were never any rifle shots heard from anyone in the area, meaning Charles hadn't fired any rounds in distress.

The reason these stories are here: they are true mysteries.

Richard Hatke

Missing 8/15/1955-4 p.m., Cottonwood, ID

Age at Disappearance: 2 years

This incident occurred at Cottonwood Butte located fifteen miles east of where the Oregon and Washington state borders meet and three miles east of the Salmon River. The butte is a large mound with trees surrounding the area and has a large United States government radar station at its summit.

On August 15, 1955, the Hatke family had driven to Cottonwood Butte from their residence in Cottonwood to pick huckleberries. Richard was sleeping in the family car when they arrived, so they left him in the car while they picked berries a short distance away. At approximately 4 p.m., the family went to the car to check on the small boy and found he had vanished. The family immediately started a massive search with everyone in the area yelling and looking for the two- year-old. Richard wasn't answering the calls.

Early on the first evening that Richard was missing, local law enforcement had gathered 350 local people, firefighters, police o icers, and sheri deputies who were all scouring every inch of the surrounding butte for the boy. The Daily Chronicle of August 16, 1955, had the following description of the search e ort: "Volunteers from Grangeville, Nez Perce, Cottonwood and Craigmont were summoned. Walking in lines five to six feet apart they combed the rocky and wooded country through the night."

At 5 a.m. the morning after the disappearance, searchers made an unusual find, which was documented in the Spokane Daily Chronicle of August 16, 1955: "This morning at dawn, about a quarter mile from the point that the boy disappeared, Charles Poxleitner, a neighbor, found the lad dressed in bright clothing pinioned tightly in the limbs of a fallen tree and unable to move." Later in the same article it was

explained what Richard had to say about his night lost in the woods: “He don’t talk too well and when we ask him what happened, he just laughs.”

Summary

This incident is in the book for a couple of perplexing reasons. A two-year-old boy was able to open a car door and leave the area without his parents hearing him. That same boy never answered his parents’ pleas for help, calling and screaming his name throughout the night. Searchers walk nearly hand in hand throughout the area and never see or hear the boy

A radar station was being built at the summit of Cottonwood Butte, an elevation of 5,400 feet. The base of the butte—the area where the huckleberry picking was happening—was 4,700 feet. Later in the Spokane Daily article is this description of where Richard was found: “The area where the boy was found is in the heavily timbered and rocky slopes of Cottonwood Butte, near where the government soon will construct a directional radar. It is covered with downed timber, making the work of the searchers particularly di icult.” This definition of where Robert was found indicates that the boy was found near the summit, meaning he managed to climb nearly seven hundred feet up the side of the butte through huge downed trees? He was eventually found pinned between tree branches so tight he couldn’t get himself out. Could a two-year-old little boy get himself over large downed trees, up seven hundred feet in elevation, and then pin himself among small branches so tightly that he couldn’t move? Could a two-year old boy be that strong?

I think it’s fascinating that one article indicated he was wearing bright-colored clothing and that he couldn’t explain what happened to him.

This incident occurred very close to the Idaho/ Washington and Oregon borders, an area where many have disappeared and where there is an identified cluster.

Ronald Hu ord

Missing: 10/01/1956, Bu alo Humps Wilderness, ID Age at disappearance: 28 years

The area where this incident occurred has an established cluster of missing people identified in my past books. It is one of fifty-eight geographical clusters of missing people in North America. The

disappearances run the field from hikers to hunters and everything in between.

Ronald Hu ord had a very busy September in 1956. On September 20 he was married. Days after he was wed, he and his wife moved from Lewiston to Clarkston, which is essentially a move from one side of the Snake River to the other.

He told his wife that he was driving to the area of Elk City, Idaho, and making his way to the Bu alo Humps area to go elk hunting. He stated that he'd be gone for one night and then return home. Ronald was supposed to be home the morning of October 1. When he didn't arrive, his wife, Virginia, called his father and authorities and notified them where she thought her husband had traveled.

Albert Hu ord was Ron's dad and arrived in the Humps soon after he was notified. He assisted searchers in formulating a plan and understanding his sons abilities and mind-set. Within just a few days, searchers had brought in a helicopter from Fairchild Air Force Base. They also had an agreement from the US Forest Service that eleven smoke jumpers would come to the scene. It took just two days for searchers to find Ron's sedan. It was described as stopped on a dirt road in the Humps, mired in mud. His rifle was gone, and there was no sign of Ron.

Once searchers found the car, bloodhounds were brought to the vehicle in an e ort to pick up his scent. The dogs could not track Ron and were soon pulled from the scene. There were other issues with the search. Heavy rain, wind, and cold temperatures also nagged at searchers and made conditions di icult. There was an interesting article in the October 8 edition of the Idaho State Journal: "Idaho County Sheri Bud Taylor said searchers had failed to find any sign of Hu ord on the wild Idaho County Country. Last week the sheri said he was not too concerned about the lost man since two streams in the area would lead a hunter to civilization." Days after the sheri made that statement you wonder if his attitude had changed.

Bu alo Hump is the highest section in the Gospel Hump Wilderness inside the Nez Perce National Forest. You cannot drive a vehicle inside a wilderness zone nor can you land a plane. It is a di icult and wild area in which to look for a lost person. Three weeks after Ronald disappeared, searchers were exhausted and had run out of resources.

As in the vast majority of cases where a missing person isn't found, the case quickly got o the front page of the news and evaporated from

the minds of the public. It did not leave the mind of Ron's newlywed bride, Virginia. She lived with this pain for a lifetime. Readers may not know that it is very di icult to get a judge to issue a death certificate for someone who isn't found. On September 20, 1959, Ron still had not been found nor heard from by anyone, and this forced the hand of Virginia. A judge wasn't going to issue a death certificate. So she filed for legal divorce in Asotin County Superior Court. Paperwork stated that Ron was last seen on September 30, 1956, and hadn't been seen since.

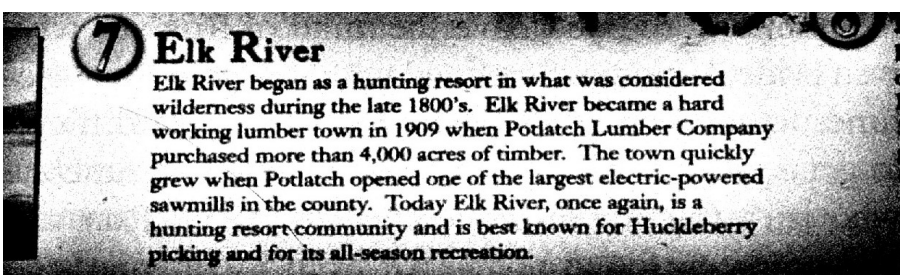
Let's remember the statement of the sheri : there were two streams in the area where Ron disappeared, and they both led to civilization. How could anyone get lost? He wasn't found by Bloodhounds. They could not find a scent to follow, and he wasn't seen from the air. The million-dollar question is, what happened to Ronald Hu ord?

Rose Jewett

Missing 8/11/1957,4:15pm, 10 Miles N/O Elk River, ID

Age at Disappearance: 95 Years

Friends and relatives of Rose took the elderly woman on a trip into the wild ten miles north of Elk River, Idaho. This region is very desolate with very rough roads in 1957.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Elk River
Elk River began as a hunting resort in what was considered wilderness during the late 1800's. Elk River became a hard working lumber town in 1909 when Potlatch Lumber Company purchased more than 4,000 acres of timber. The town quickly grew when Potlatch opened one of the largest electric-powered sawmills in the county. Today Elk River, once again, is a hunting resort community and is best known for Huckleberry picking and for its all-season recreation.

Relatives established the camp on Thursday and at 4:15pm on Sunday decided to head into the wild and collect huckleberries. The children left Rose in camp because her mobility was inhibited because of a stroke she had months earlier. Forty -five minutes after they left, the children returned and Rose was gone. A five-day search by over 50 people failed to find any evidence of Rose.

Bloodhounds came into the search and for three days essentially walked in a circle around the camp and stopped back at the camp

road, they were useless. There was a belief by some that Rose caught a ride out of the area but the children did not believe it.

On October 19 1957 Rose's daughter o ered a $300 reward for any information about her mother whether she was found alive or dead. It appears that Rose was never found.

Case Summary

There was no blood or signs of an attack at the campsite. There is only one possibility in this case, abduction, period. The woman was 95-years old, recently had a stroke and was disabled; she could not have walked away. The real question is who would be on a lonely dirt road in the middle of the Idaho wilderness that would want to abduct a 95-year-old stroke victim?

Shirley Hunt

Missing: 06/27/1958-11:15 a.m., Weippe, ID

Age at disappearance: 8 years

This incident happened at a ranch five miles from Weippe, Idaho, very near Lolo Creek. This is one of the key stories in the book because of one important statement made by the victim. If you go back and read the title of this book, it's the details that will explain and define the missing issue.

On June 27,1958, at 11:15 a.m., Shirley Hunt was playing in the yard of her parents' rural ranch. It is unknown how this happened, but Shirley disappeared from the yard, and the parents made a cursory search. Once they were unable to find the girl, a call was made to Weippe for additional assistance.

Seventy-five community members from Weippe arrived at the Hunt homestead and started to split into search teams. Just as the groups were leaving, rain started to inundate the area and continued through the afternoon.

Searchers made little progress. They weren't hearing the girl and weren't getting a response from their calls. At 6:00 p.m., one mile from the Hunt residence, searchers Leo Cochrell and Anton Larson of Weippe found Shirley. A June 28 article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune had the following information on the condition of the eight-year-old: "Shirley was barely able to talk when found. She said she had 'Just started walking.'" Search members believed that the girl had

walked in circles for hours before she was found. But read that statement again: “Just started walking.” I think is an important revelation. Had Shirley just started to walk when she was found?

Two men from a local mill had been in an airplane over the search area during the entire afternoon and never saw the girl. They had headed back and were out of the area when she was found. Is this coincidental?

Shirley was located just a mile from her residence. This area had been completely covered by the searchers during the day, and nothing was located. Many of the children I have written about in the past are found in a semiconscious state and do not say anything. I believe that the description by searchers that Shirley could “barely talk” and that she was “just starting to walk” is important.

Charlene Lynn Zahm

Missing 06/30/1959 8:00 a.m., 1505 N. 21st St, Boise Age at disappearance: 5 years

This story would never have made it into this book without my research in Missing 411- A Sobering Coincidence. The stories in the book dealt with a series of disappearances of predominantly young men that were later located in a body of water. Unfortunately, there was never any understanding of how they arrived at their locations. Some of the cases had the police investigating for weeks to understand how the circumstances unfolded, still there were never answers.

When I started to investigate the details surrounding the disappearance in this incident, I was stunned to see how the facts aligned with cases in Sobering Coincidences.

On June 30, 1959, Charlene Lynn Zahm lived at 1505 N. 21st Street in Boise. She lived with her broth er, two sisters, a step-sister, her dad, and step-mom. Her father, 38-year-old Bernard Zahm, was a sergeant in the Idaho National Guard. At approximately 7:30 a.m., Mrs. Zahm drove her husband to work and left the kids inside the home. When the mom returned to the residence, she couldn’t locate Charlene. The other kids reported they heard her walk down the stairs and open the front door to go outside; that was the last they heard of her.

Mrs. Zahm got the kids together, searched the house, the yard, and the neighborhood, calling Charlene's name and getting more frantic by the minute. At 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Zahm called the Boise Police and reported her daughter as a missing person.

In 1959, the Zahm household was considered north Boise and flirting

with the suburban type neighborhood. Today, the residence sits in a vast community that extends north for miles. Boise Police took the report of a missing 5-year- old very seriously. The primary responding o icer immediately called for more assistance, and a massive search was started. Police determined that Charlene had disappeared in a 20-minute time window from when the parents left home until Mrs. Zahm returned.

The police pulled out all of the stops in the search. Ground teams, including canines, searched the streets behind homes and residences. Cars drove to the outside perimeter areas and searched canals, rivers, and ponds. They even put-up airplanes to get the sky view of the region. Finally, they had a special team that entered the ponds, canals, creeks, and rivers and cleared each of them to ensure she wasn't in the water.

The first major article about the investigation surrounding Charlene's disappearance appeared in the July 5, 1969 edition of the Idaho Statesman and stated the following, "O icers said Saturday they have absolutely no idea what happened to the five-year- old Boise girl. Did she fall into a stream and drown? Was she kidnapped by someone who might have lost a child of their own and grabbed the pretty little girls a substitute? Was she picked up by a sex pervert? We've gone over this thing a thousand times, said Acting Police Chief Gus Urresti. Each time we end up right where we started, with nothing." Later in the same article was this about Charlene's dad, "Police gave the 38-year-old Zahm, his 34-year-old wife and three other Zahm children, all older than the missing girl, lie detector tests because, Zahm said, "everybody is a suspect no matter who they are." Urresti stated that the tests showed that the entire family is in the clear."

As someone who participated in one of the most famous child disappearances of all time, the Polly Klaas case, I was one of the investigators requested from our department at the time (San Jose Police) to send two detectives to assist. Clearing family members in all child disappearances is a routine part of the general investigation process and need to be done.

Detectives got the Zahm case and continued to canvass the neighborhood around her residence, speak with neighbors and attempt to find anyone that saw the girl on the street or saw someone suspicious in the community. Nobody came forward claiming they saw Charlene walking the sidewalks; nobody reported anything suspicious, there were no leads.

Charlene's disappearance shook Boise residents. There was a tremendous amount of pressure on the police to solve the case. In addition, it was a discomforting feeling to believe there was a child kidnapper in the middle of Boise, Idaho.

The state of Idaho was rattled on August 14, 1959; the body of Charlene Zahm was found in a small creek as is described in the August 15 edition of the Idaho Statesman, "The search for five-year-old Charlene Zahm ended Friday with the finding of her body in a creek some 18 miles from Boise, but police said a new investigation

was underway. Captain Gus Urresti, acting Boise Police Chief, said there was evidence of foul play, although an autopsy showed death was from drowning. Urresti declined to comment further on what the foul play evidence was. The child had been missing from her Boise home since June 30. In a written statement handed to newsmen, Urresti said, “The body of Charlene Zahm has been identified. There is evidence of foul play and death is due to drowning; there is no evidence of sexual molestation. The acting chief did say, however, that part of the foul play theory was based on the distance that the child was found from her home at 1505 North Twenty First street.”

The article quoted above also stated that fisherman George Wiley found the badly decomposed body at about 10:30 a.m. in Indian Creek near the junction with the Mora Canal and near the New York Canal in the vicinity of Kuna. Wiley explained that the body was approximately 2/3 submerged in water and partially on the rocks.

The autopsy stated there were no bruises, no strangulation, essentially no marks at all on the body. The police later confirmed that the body was approximately two miles west of Kuna.

There was another article on August 16, 1959, in the Spokesman-Review that added additional details about Charlene’s discovery, “Her body was found yesterday about 18 miles south of Boise. It could have floated to that spot from another canal which flows within about four miles, at its/closest point of the Zahm home. Did the girl walk from her home in the northwest part of the city, through the downtown business district and an industrial section, across the Boise River, up a hill to more residential districts and on to the canal? It would have taken her hours.”

Later in the same article was this, “A pathologist who examined the body said she had not been molested. Her clothing was not disarranged. Her skull was not fractured, so there apparently was no heavy blow to the head. The autopsy showed that the child drowned, that she was alive when she entered the water.”

One article stated that for Charlene to be in the position where she was found, she had to enter a canal four miles from her home. This August 16, 1959 article in the Idaho State Journal had another perspective, “The New York Canal, from which Indian Creek branches, is across the Boise River from the girl’s home. At the closest point, it is about seven miles from her home.”

I’ve researched hundreds of drowning cases and written about over

one hundred. Moving water in a creek or river damages a body; that's a fact. The body gets banged against rocks, branches, etc.; it's natural. To find a body in such pristine condition as Charlene's is very unusual. The fisherman stated that she was 2/3 in the water and 1/3 on the rocks. Articles also said that her dress was not dislodged; wow, that's all very hard to believe if she traveled several miles in a canal or creek.

One of the last articles about Charlene and the police administration that was in charge of the case was in the July 4, 1960 edition of the Times-News, "Even today, the case of Charlene and the riddle of what events led to her death remain a mystery. In the Boise Police files, the case is listed only as an "unsolved death."

As in past cases, I have documented drowning cases about people in water under unexplained circumstances; Charlene Zahm now takes center stage. In past instances where bodies were found, families in Wisconsin did secondary autopsies. Their pathologists found HUGE amounts of GHB in their boy's systems, in quantities nearly too high to ingest. GHB is not a drug typically tested for a toxicology screening, and the second autopsy caught it. GHB can put the victim in an almost paralyzed state, they know what is happening to them, yet they can't move. If you put that body in water, the cause of death will be drowning. GHB is eliminated through the body pro-cess rapidly. We have sixty years of investigative experience process and advancements since the Zahm case. Boise Police were looking at this incident from a local department viewpoint; I understand the paradigm. However, our investigations have revealed that these cases are worldwide.

Profile Points: Point of Separation- German- Water- No Tracks- No Scent

Ted Nalman

Missing 9/07/1959, Moore Lake, Eastern ID

Age at Disappearance: 14 years

The Nalman family lived in Kellogg, Idaho. On September 6, 1959, Fred Nalman took his fourteen- year-old son, Ted, to eastern Idaho to hunt bear.

The hunters were en route to the area of Moore Lake, which sits just one hundred yards inside of Montana at the Idaho border. This is a very rugged area that has no less than four roads that surround the area of Moore Lake. The elevation of the ridgelines in this area is six

thousand feet.

Fred and Ted arrived into the border area and spent the night. Early the following morning, the two hunters split up and attempted to stay within a reasonable closeness to each other. At the end of the hunting day, Fred returned to their campsite, and Ted never arrived. Fred didn't wait long before enlisting the assistance of the local sheri and forest service employees to look for his son.

The search for Ted was large for eastern Idaho. The sheri was able to obtain a helicopter that covered ridges, mountains, and meadows in its e ort to find the young hunter. However, searchers were compromised in their e orts as rain and snow fell almost the entire time they were in the field.

Two days into the search, rescue workers were able to locate a fisherman who had seen Ted late in the day that he disappeared. A September 11 article in the Eugene Register-Guard had the following information about Ted: "Young Nalman was last seen by a fisherman, Don Pierce of Kellogg on Monday afternoon. He said that Nalman asked him the direction to a roadway. Gardner said the youth had traveled the roughest stretch to the roadway and had only a quarter mile to do over a less rugged section when he faltered and died. The spot where the body was found was some three-quarters of a mile from where father and son camped."

Searchers continued to look for Ted and found him face down on a ridgeline Thursday afternoon, four days after he vanished. The same Eugene-Register article had the following about finding Ted: "The body of Ted Nalman, son of a Kellogg miner, was found face down on a timbered ridge in the Moore Lake area, about fifteen miles south of St. Regis, Montana. The boy's shoes were missing and so was the rifle he was carrying on a bear trip with his father over Labor Day."

Ted was given an autopsy where the coroner determined the boy died of exposure.

Summary

Ted was found a short distance from where the fisherman had spoken with him. Sometime in that short time and distance something deadly happened to the young man. He was speaking, alive, and in good condition, heading toward the roadway, when he left the fisherman. How could things go so drastically wrong in such a short distance? People who have read my past books remember stories where hunters

disappear, and soon their clothing is gone and their firearms disappear. How or why Ted's boots came o is one monumental question in this case. Hunters and fisherman must have footwear in the mountains, or they are quickly restricted in their movements and will su er exposure from the cold elements. As I have stated many, many times, hunters know that their lifeline is their rifle. The rifle can summon help by firing it. Nobody heard one round come from Ted's gun, but where was his rifle? The fact that Ted's body was found face down on a ridgeline also does not make any sense, as this position indicates the boy was unconscious when his face went into the ground, or he was placed that way. I would've liked to be the first rescuer on the scene to see if he had facial damage from hitting the ground.

The disappearance of Ted Nalman counts in my top ten of the strangest disappearance and subsequent death of a hunter that I've ever researched.

There were discrepancies in the articles I reviewed for this story as well. Some stories listed Fred's son's name as "Fred" and others as "Ted." I chose to use Ted as it made the story easier to follow.

Fred Vinneau

Missing 10/06/1960, Powell Ranger Station

Age at disappearance: 84 years

As I have researched missing hunters, I am constantly asking myself how much these outdoorsmen train before going into the woods? Do these people exercise before they go out and start climbing mountains, forging rivers, and carrying packs at high elevations? It would be a good practice to train before you set out alone into the wilderness, it can be a dangerous place.

Fred Vinneau was described in the October 11, 1960 edition of the Statesman Journal as "quite spry for his age," but the same article also stated he had a heart condition. Fred had traveled with his son, Cyril, from Spokane to the area of the Powell Ranger Station on the Lochsa River in Idaho for Elk Hunting. They established a camp and intended to work the area of Mochsa Creek for elk. This area of the Bitterroot National Forest is one of the most remote in North America.

No Trace Found of Aged Hunter

On Thursday, October 6, 1960, Fred and his son and his wife had been

camped at their site for almost a week. They decided to hunt di erent areas and agreed to meet that afternoon back at camp (Point of Separation); Fred never returned. The October 15, 1960 edition of the Spokesman-Review had these details, " On Thursday, October 6, he was (Cyril) successful in downing an elk about a mile from camp, and his father wanted to see it. His father (Fred) then started back to camp alone." Cyril stated that he returned to camp in 45 minutes, and Fred was not there. They found a packer nearby that assisted them in the search for Fred but were not having any luck. The same article quoted above had this, "However, for nearly a week after Fred Vinneau became missing from Cyril, Vinneau said the only searchers were he and Mrs. Vinneau, two friends from the Spokane area, a few hunters for a while, and a Dr. Little from Lewiston who brought in a Bloodhound. He saw the sheri on the scene only twice and no sheri 's posse at all."

The October 12 edition of the Twin-News stated, "Hope of finding an elderly Spokane hunter faded today as temperatures dropped and snow covered the primitive area of north-central Idaho where he has been for six days. The article also stated that the weather grounded helicopters and kept Bloodhounds from tracking in the search area. The exact area of the search was fifteen miles west of the Powell Ranger Station on the Lochsa River and approximately twenty miles south of Lolo Hot Springs.

The search was terminated on October 13. There were subsequent searches once the snow cleared and cadaver dogs could work. Fred Vinneau was never found.

Profile Points: Disability • Point of Separation • Canines • Weather • Hunter

Fred Dorsey

Missing: 10/21/1961, Monument Peak, ID

Age at disappearance: 19 years

*Various articles identified this person as Fred or Floyd. The majority of the stories used Fred and I will use that here.

Many of the stories I document involve weather as a primary factor in the disappearance. In this incident over one hundred hunters were trapped or endangered during an October storm that crippled southern Idaho. I don't believe that these sportsmen didn't check the weather before they went out, not one hundred of them. This implies that it

was an unexpected event that actually killed several hunters. This is really a story of bad timing, bad judgment, and bad weather.

On October 20, 1961, Fred Dorsey left his residence in Paul, Idaho, to travel across the Snake River, drive through Burley, and take the relatively short journey to Monument Peak near the Utah border.

Fred arrived at the Monument Peak area with friends and left early on October 21 for the first day of deer hunting. Fred's hunting partner was Harold Cavener, also of Paul. Fred put down a deer just as the weather was starting to get bad. He told his partner that he was going to stay with his kill and that he'd get back to camp soon. The weather was so bad that Harold went back to camp. Fred never arrived, and his friends went out to search for him.

Fred's friends couldn't find him as the blizzard settled in to wreak havoc on Monument Peak. Unbeknownst to his friends, Fred had given up on carrying his deer out and was found staggering down a dirt road nearly frozen. A June 11, 1962, article in the Ogden Standard Examiner had a description of the event: "Dorsey had been brought in by other hunters in a pickup truck. He was cold and unable to make his way back to his camp. He had to be helped from the pickup. He was given food and hot co ee, then insisted on leaving to find his way back to his camp. He was never seen again." Remember, Fred's friends never knew at the time that he'd been found and then never knew he had left again. They were already headed to get assistance from law enforcement. An October 25, 1961, article in the Idaho State Journal described the weather in the area: "Hundreds were stranded by the heavy snowfall Saturday, the opening day of the hunt. Most of them reached safety. Searchers figure the rest, perhaps 100 are all right. They are concentrating their search on 5,000 foot Monument Peak! area where Fred Dorsey 19, of nearby Paul, was last seen with his kill when the storm started."

Monument Peak is an interesting area. There are wide swaths of open meadows coupled with areas with heavy timber. The landscape changes often. After several days, the searchers were able to bring in two planes of the civil air patrol from Boise and another volunteer pilot. The group searched o and on for over ten days. Searchers did not find anything. The o icial search was terminated on November 1. Searchers cited four-foot snowdrifts that hampered their e ort to find evidence of where the young hunter may have gone.

There were articles in local papers as late as June 20, 1962, that stated that early summer searches were conducted to find Fred's body

and indicated that they had no luck and he was not found.

Weather has been a consistent issue in many of the missing who fit the identified profile. In this case, the hunters were seemingly not anticipating this weather event. When numbers approaching one hundred are at risk and stranded, it's apparent the sportsmen did not expect the severity of the blizzard. It is especially bothersome to me that Fred's body was never found. The area doesn't have the hiding places that some boulder-strewn areas possess. This is the only event that I can remember where a hunter was saved from certain death, given new life, and then walked out into oblivion and disappeared again.

The only other story I can remember that comes close involves a young, brilliant physics graduate student that was hiking with her boyfriend. Somehow they were separated, and she got lost. She called on her cell phone for assistance and luckily got through to the New Mexico emergency services group. Despite a series of unbelievable connection failures, she was eventually located and rescued. A storm had moved into the area, and a New Mexico State Police helicopter risked the weather to fly into the wilderness to save the people. Unfortunately, after picking up the student, the copter crashed and killed her. As I stated in the story, it seemed as though it was destined that she never leave that mountain alive. Once you read the entire story, you'll see why. The event is in Missing 411: The Devil is in the Detail.

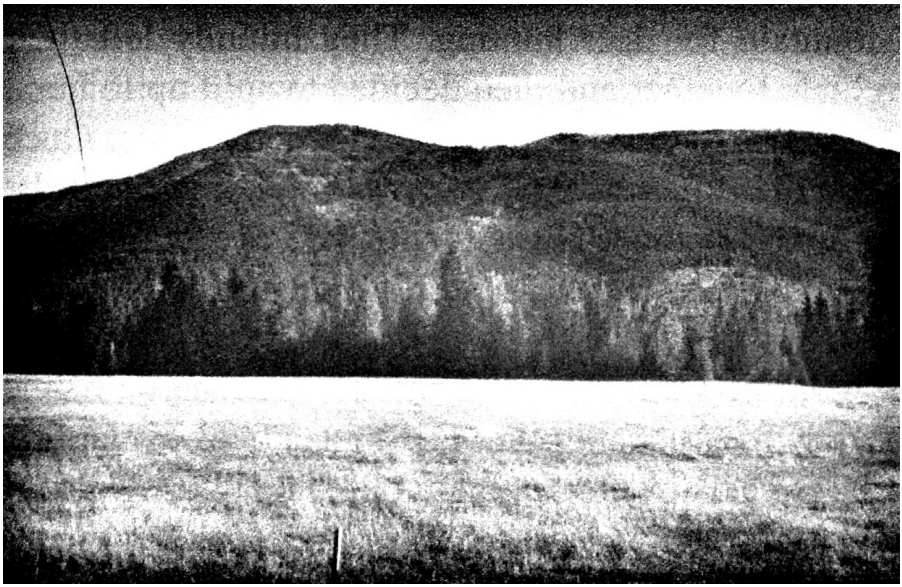
As best I can determine, Fred Dorsey was never found.

Richard Martin

Missing 10/19/1963

Age at disappearance: 21 years

This incident happened just about as far north as you can travel in Idaho and still be relatively near a population zone. Iron Mountain is located seven miles west of Montana and eight miles east of Naples, Idaho.



Iron Mountain, Idaho

This part of Idaho can get very remote quite quickly. The location of this incident is Iron Mountain which is located in the Kaniksu National Forest. Kaniksu is a Native American word meaning “Black Robe.” The robe reference was towards the Jesuit Missionaries that established a presence in Northern Idaho.

Richard Martin, known as “Dick” to his friends, was working for a lumber mill in 1962 and su ered a severe injury. The injury disrupted his lifestyle and inhibited his ability to walk, run, etc. However, the young man still loved the outdoors and continued to make treks into the wild from his home in Sandpoint.

On October 19, 1953, Dick and his brother Frank made the 25-mile-drive from their home to the Iron Mountain for deer hunting. They initially left their vehicle together and then decided to split up to hunt? They agreed to meet back at a specific time. Once Dick didn’t get back to the car, Frank went into the woods, called out Dick’s name, and eventually gave up and drove back to Bonners Ferry and called the sheri .

The Boundary County sheri took charge of the search for Dick Martin. The first article explaining what was happening in the SAR came in the October 22, 1963, edition of the Spokane Chronicle, “Deputies said about 30 men are looking for Dick Martin, 21, in the Iron Mountain area he became separated from his party. Searchers are

being hampered by rain and fog in the area. Sheri 's o icers have called for volunteers to help in the search. They said fears for Martin's safety are mounting. Although familiar with the woods, they said his physical condition is poor as a result of a sawmill accident about a year ago." I want readers to ponder what the sheri was saying about Dick's physical condition. If the hunter was in such poor shape, how far could he indeed travel? The next update that caught my eye was in October 25, 1963, Idaho Statesman and had the following, "Boundary County Sheri 's deputies reported finding foot prints and surveyors stakes arranged in an arrow pattern in the search for Richard Martin, 21, missing since Saturday. Deputies said it snowed a foot just above the area where the signs were discovered." In reading and analyzing over 8000 SAR reports, I have never read anything similar to the arrows on the ground. If Dick left these for searchers to follow, it was brilliant. I know that the SAR team followed the arrows in the region it was pointing. The real question is if these were left by the missing hunter, by the surveyors, or others?

The search for Dick Martin lasted over a week and included fifty military men from Fairchild Air Force Base, two aircraft, and was searching in the area around the 5500' level. At the height of the SAR, over 100 men were pounding the ground looking for Richard Martin. This October 29, 1964 article in the Idaho Statesman had these details, "Authorities here (Bonners Ferry) say they have given up their search for a Sandpoint hunter missing in rugged mountain country for over a week. Searchers looked for Martin for a week with few, if any, clues. They were often hampered by bad weather in the 500-foot altitude where the hunter was lost."

Iron Mountain is known throughout this part of Idaho and Montana as an excellent hunting area. Unfortunately, over fifty years have passed since Richard vanished, and nothing has been recovered is genuinely mind-boggling. Although the body may indeed deteriorate and the bones may scatter, the boots, rifle, and leather will last essentially forever.

One last note, there is a Grizzly bear in this area of Idaho and Montana. Searchers never found any evidence of animal predation in the e ort to locate Dick.

Profile Points: Point of Separation- Weather- Physical Disability- Hunter- Never Found

Martin Woodward

Missing: 11/17/1963,2:00 p.m., Keeler Creek, Clarkia, ID

Age at disappearance: 22 years

The exact location of this case was fifteen miles south of Clarkia in the Keeler Creek area. This would be approximately forty-five miles east of the Washington border and northeast of Moscow. The region is covered with very thick and lush big timber. If you look at a map now, it does not look as it did in 1963. Much of the area has been heavily logged.

In November 1963, twenty-two-year-old Martin Woodward was employed by the Bunker Hill Company of Kellogg, Idaho, and lived in Wardner. On November 17, 1963, Martin was elk hunting with Missing People Listed by Date of Occurrence | 135 his stepfather, Stewart Olmstead, in the Keeler Creek area. The two decided to hunt alone and agreed on a time and place to meet later in the day. Martin never arrived, and Stewart left the area to get assistance from forestry o icials in Clarkia and the local sheri . In a short period of time, o icials got up to one hundred SAR personnel on the scene.

The search started on November 18 simultaneously as snow started to fall. The weather got continually worse over the following four days. The clouds parted for a short time on November 21, and a military helicopter from Larson Air Force Base joined the search. The helicopter crew flew the region during most of the day, primarily looking for tracks, movement, and odd colors. They saw nothing of value. The search for Martin was o icially terminated on November 22. Martin's family felt destined to find the young man. On May 25, 1964, the family and friends went back to the region and searched for days. They again found nothing.

There was no information about Martin for almost two years. The September 27, 1965, Nampa Free Press reported a stunning discovery: "The search for Martin Woodward, 21 of Smelterville, which began two years ago, ended during the weekend with the finding of a scattered skeleton along a remote high ridge in Clearwater County." The article had conflicting information on Martin's age and his hometown.

The facts concerning who found the skeleton were never disclosed. I find it fascinating that his skeleton was found on a ridge when the pair were hunting a creek, a ridge that a helicopter crew surely would've passed over and could've seen something sitting on. It would not make sense for Martin to stay on a ridge long because of the snow.

Wind and heavy snow gets worse at altitude. Protection is in the valley away from open areas.

There have been several stories of missing people where they were not found on multiple searches and then suddenly turn up in a nearby area. The exact location of Martin's remains were never made public. I have no idea why.

John Treadway

Missing 09/27/1967, Decker Creek, Atlanta

Age at disappearance: 19 years

I have written about the epiphany I had about journalists as I researched missing people. When you read 5-10 articles about an incident and find that half the articles have the age, location, and facts incorrect, it's disheartening that writers care so little about getting the facts correct. Once the incident broke in the news, half the articles had the victim's last name as Treadwell, and many articles had the victim's age as 16. There were very few articles that had the facts of the case remotely correct.

Nineteen-year-old John Treadway lived in Boise with his mom. On September 27, 1967, John drove the 120 miles east to Decker Creek just south of Atlanta, Idaho, for deer hunting. John enjoyed the outdoors and especially hunting. So, when the young hunter didn't return home, his mom called the sheri .

Mrs. Treadway knew that Jon was hunting near Atlanta but didn't know the exact spot until the sheri found his car. This November 3, 1967 article in the Spokesman-Review had details of what transpired, "Elmore County Sheri Earl Winter said an area of 40 square miles had been searched. Treadway's abandoned car was found. Winter said two Atlanta boys reported they were hunting with Treadway for a time last Friday. They took searchers to the spot where they left him." It turned out that John planned to hunt alone but found two hunting companions. The publicity of the search prompted two young hunters to tell the sheri the last spot that saw Jon before they separated. The young hunters, Bob Minga and Duke Pridemore, told searchers that Jon was dressed warmly.

Mrs. Treadway was quite concerned to hear that her son's epileptic medication was found in the vehicle, something that he needs regularly.

Elgin and Ada County had massive assistance from Mountain Home Air Force Base personnel and helicopters, local search and rescue personnel, and sheri 's deputies. This November 7, 1967, article in the South Idaho Press had more details, "Only a few sheri 's deputies and some volunteers continued to search today for a 19-year-old Boise youth missing in the Sawtooth mountains east of Boise for a week. "We just ran out of manpower and supplies," an Ada County Sheri 's Deputy said after 80-100 men had been searching for John Treadway near Atlanta 60 miles east of Boise."

There was nothing new on this case until a June 23, 1968 edition of the Idaho Stateman that had new search details, "Fifty or more searchers were combing the rugged mountains south of Atlanta Saturday to find some sign of 16-year-old John Treadway, who disappeared last October. Treadway of Boise failed to meet companions October 28 after hunting in the Decker Creek area south of Atlanta." The article also stated that 48 square miles had been the grid area of the original search.

When we enjoy the outdoors in rural locations, we need to understand that resources are limited. Volunteers do 95% of all search and rescue. If people in our society voluntarily take time away from work and aren't paid, we as a society have to ask ourselves how long we expect them to search.

The June 1968 search for John found nothing; he was never found.

Profile Points: Point of Separation- Hunter- Granite- Illness/ Disability

Ray Jones

Missing 09/07/1968, Hayden Creek, Salmon

Age at disappearance: 39 years

We live in unusual times and hear many nasty things about law enforcement. Unfortunately, you rarely hear the good stories about our men and women in law enforcement, but in reality, there is much more good than bad; you just never hear it.

When I first started the production of our first documentary, Missing 411, we decided early in the process that the Deorr Kunz case would be part of the film. The case was still unraveling, and the facts were few. I had our production crew go to Lemhi County to interview witnesses and meet with law enforcement.

My son, Ben, was the co-director in that first movie and called me nightly with updates. Early in their time in Lemhi County, they met the person in charge of the investigation, Sergeant Steve Penner of the Lemhi County Sheri 's O ice. Ben told me that Steve was very accommodating, with his time and open with revealing information about Deorr's disappearance. I do not include the Kunz case in this book, I think my son did a great job covering it in the documentary, and there are no new facts as this book goes to press.

Since the release of Missing 411,1 have had several conversations with now Sheri Steve Penner. He told me that our team was one of the few that told the truth about the Kunz case, and he appreciated our honesty. In early 2021 I found myself in Salmon and spent time with Sheri Penner, a true gentle giant of a man. We discussed law enforcement and various cases in his area, and I asked him about Ray Jones. The sheri told me that all of the reports on the issue were lost decades earlier, but he can confirm that his remains have not been located, and he was still considered a missing person. In September of 1968, 39-year-old Ray Jones was a popular man in the small town of Salmon, Idaho. He owned the American Gas station, one of the few in the city. The town is the county seat for Lemhi County and has the beautiful Salmon River flowing through the center.

Ray was a man that kept himself in good shape, enjoyed the outdoors, and especially elk and goat hunting. So, on Saturday, September 7, Ray went up into the mountains on a long-planned elk bow hunting trip with Ralph Pehrson and Bill Miller of Salmon and Ray Torrey of San Francisco. The men headed high into the Hayden Creek region. The 7th was a big day in Ray's life; it was his birthday. This September 12, 1968 article in the Recorder Herald had these details about the hunt, "The popular Salmon businessman was last seen Saturday about 1:30 p.m. in Upper Hayden Creek by his three companions. The hunter never returned back to the vehicle, and the guys called the Lemhi County Sheri 's O ice.

The county put our canines, ground teams, and the forest service contributed approximately ten men for the search. The same article quoted above had these details: "Heavy rains dampened the area late Wednesday afternoon and night, reducing the dogs' chances of picking up a scent. Sheri Baker said Thursday that the storm has hampered the search, and the searchers are without a clue as to where to look." Later in the same article was this, "Baker said a rock-by-rock search was conducted on both the ridge and drainages between." Again, there were helicopters, canines, ground teams, and a hoard of volunteers that scrambled through the mountains looking for Ray.

As the search days pressed on, Ray's wife, Donna, visited the search area, and his brother from Montana arrived and participated in the SAR.

The search area for Ray Jones includes very steep mountains that are high in elevation strewn in boulder fields. It's interesting to note the previous paragraph where a description is made of a rock-by-rock search of the ridge and drainages; that is a monumental e ort.

An eight-day formal search for Ray Jones found nothing. There were countless other searches for the hunter's remains following his disappearance. I knew a hunter that annually hunted this exact area. His father knew Ray, and my friend searched for remains every year he was in the area; he never found anything.

On September 20, 2021, I received a call from Sheri Penner; he told me that after 53 years, Ray Jones remains had been located. He said to me that on September 17, another hunter was at the bottom of a boulder field when he saw something unusual. He walked over and located one arrow and what appeared to be human remains. The hunter called the Lemhi County Sheri 's o ice, and they sent a sergeant to the scene.

The sheri 's o ice located a femur, one arrow, boots, a plastic identification card with "Ray Jones.". They didn't find any clothing or a bow. The remains were located on the East Fork of Hayden Creek; according to articles, this area was searched, rock by rock, in 1968.

It is pretty remarkable that possibly hundreds of hikers and hunters walked by the Boulder Field and missed Ray's remains. The woods o er many mysteries, and how Mr. Jones remained hidden for 53 years will never be known.

Profile Points: Hunter- Water- Boulder Field- Granite-Point of Separation- Previously Searched

Lowell Smith

Missing: 10/5/1968, Pilot Knob, Grangeville, Idaho Age at disappearance: 60

It's a rare occasion when a former professional athlete makes the news for being lost in the wild, but that is exactly what happened on October 5, 1968. Lowell Smith was a former Green Bay Packers

football player. Lowell had an excellent job in Fernley, Nevada, where he was the superintendent of the Fernley United Serra Mining and Milling Company.

In early October of 1968, Lowell traveled to an area called Pilot Knob nineteen miles east of Grangeville, Idaho. Pilot Knob is known as a great hunting area in the fall and is in the northern section of the Nez Perce National Forest.

Idaho County Sheri Gene Fuzzell conducted a historic five-day search for Lowell. Two helicopters were utilized in the search along with a massive ground team. On October 9, ground teams happened onto Lowell's camp in the Lightning Creek drainage. This area is thick with old-growth trees and significant ground cover. The team found the brand of cigarettes that Lowell smoked, along with ammunition, food, and evidence that Lowell had been there at least two days. Another item they found at the camp caused serious concern—Lowell's rifle. A hunter would never leave their rifle in camp and wander from the immediate area. Never.

Lowell was a very influential figure in Nevada. His family had two senators call the Idaho governor and ask for the search for Lowell to continue. The Idaho governor got their National Guard to assist in the search for two additional weeks. A total of three weeks was spent searching the area where Lowell's camp was found. Lowell was never located and no other evidence was ever discovered.

Case Summary

It's hard to imagine that hundreds of National Guard members, spending weeks searching an identified area around a campsite, cannot find a missing hunter. It would appear that Lowell was nowhere in the area close to the campsite. He was a very experienced hunter and would never leave the camp area without his rifle. If Lowell knew never to leave without his rifle, and his body wasn't found anywhere near the camp, what forced him to leave?

Louis Sandoval

Missing 9/6/1969, Fremont County, Dubois, ID

Age at Disappearance: 66 years

A herd of sheep was being tended to in the Bear Creek Basin 15 miles northwest of Dubois. Sandoval's horse rode into camp without the man thus alerting other herders that he was lost or injured. The

foreman of the L.U. Sheep Company reported the missing person to Fremont County Sheri C.A. McDougall. A search was initiated in the rugged region and Sandoval was never found.

There were few details about this case, but because the case involved a missing sheepherder, it was included.

Je Hodgson

Missing 06/10/1974, 5:30 pm, Split Butte

Age at disappearance: 11 years

l can remember the first time I took my son Ben to a summer hockey camp in Minnesota and left them in the presence of another adult. The week was filled with training, skill development, and all in the middle of nowhere in Brainerd, Minnesota. I can remember being very nervous about all of the possibilities of what could happen in a facility surrounded by big trees and thick woods. Of course, I didn't want to leave my son alone, but it was part of both of us growing up, trusting his judgment and giving him space. It was the first year of many that Ben spent training every summer at Minnesota Hockey Camp. One of the main reasons Ben eventually played division one college hockey was the intensive training and competition the facility o ered; it was world-class.

I think every parent goes through that nervous period when they leave their child with a counselor, they have never met at a summer camp they won't be attending. This story deals with a young boy disappearing at a summer outing sponsored by a regional recreation group.

In June of 1974, eleven-year-old Je Hodgson lived in Pocatello with his family. The Department of Environmental Community Services was o ering a summer excursion that dealt with wilderness survival. The trip would take eleven children by bus from Pocatello to an area just south of the southern border of Craters of the Moon National Monument, and they would hike through an area around Crystal Ice Caves. The trip would be in blistering summer heat, at times with temperatures over 100 degrees.

On Saturday, June 8, 1974, nine boys and two girls between the ages of nine and eleven left Pocatello, heading to Split Butte, about ten miles southwest of the Crystal Ice Caves. There were four paid DECS supervisors on the bus and one volunteer. There was a support vehicle following the bus that was a Jeep driven by a volunteer. As the group

approached the butte, the Jeep ran out of gas. The bus was still filled with kids and had to return to American Falls, get gas for the Jeep and return to fuel it. This was the first indication that things were not going to go well on this trip.

When the bus and Jeep were fueled, they traveled to an area two miles south of Split Butte and established a camp. The counselors now gave the children enough dried food for six days and were told to carry it in their pack and ration it evenly for the days ahead. Each person brought a canteen and a blanket.

On Sunday, June 9, the group started their day with a lesson from an instructor about how to catch small rodents in a trap. That afternoon, the instructors took the group to a location inside Split Butte that had caves. It was explained to the kids that if you ever get lost in this environment, find a cave and take cover there from the heat.

At about 6:00 pm, the group had already started to run low on water, and they hiked into the desert about a mile and a half, looking for a well or oasis. They did find a location with muddy and stale water. However, the group was so thirsty that they filled their water containers, drank the water, and spent the night. The Jeep and two support personnel had already left to get more water.

On Monday morning, June 10, the group left Split Butte area to meet the Jeep at a pre-arranged point. The kids were split into two groups; one group was faster in their hiking than the other. By noon, the group leaders could not locate the road they had planned to meet the support Jeep. As one fiasco was evolving with a group of counselors lost and unable to find the Jeep meeting point, another disaster was about to happen. The supply Jeep was filled with water and purportedly traveled 50 miles per hour on a rough desert road heading for the meeting point. Unfortunately, the vehicle bounced severely and knocked the vehicle's battery out of the car and into the dirt, and disabled the 4x4.

The kids were still with two counselors as two others had branched out looking for the meeting place. The two counselors with the group decided to hike on with the kids and see if they could find the meeting location. Temperatures at this time were near 100 degrees. DECS reported that one counselor was in the front of the group and one in the rear. Two boys were lagging near the back of the group, Rocky Nelson (10 years) and Je Hodgson (11 years). The counselor stated that they were 50 yards behind the last time they looked. The counselor explained the road turned and had humps, and they lost

sight of the boys. It was just after 5:00 pm that Rocky and Je had vanished. The counselor says he backtracked and found Je 's pack and prints going o trial from the pack, later determined to be Rocky's. Je 's impressions were never seen in this area, but strangely reports indicated that other prints were located and did not belong to either boy.

It is at this point that the story gets very odd. A June 20, 1974 article in the Idaho State Journal had the following about what happened next, "Tuesday morning, Johnson (Group Counselor) he returned once again to traverse the area in which Je and Rocky had separated from the group and at 9:15 am he said he ignited two large signal fires on top of a nearby butte." Unknown to anyone in the group or Jeep, Rocky had been found at 10:30 am in the area of Minodoka by a farmer.

Rocky Nelson was escorted back to the group and was later interviewed by law enforcement and told a fascinating story. He and Je got tired and fell asleep in the desert at one of the group hiking breaks. They both woke up and saw the group far ahead of them. Rocky said they both screamed at the group to wait; apparently, nobody heard them. The counselors had continued without taking a headcount to ensure they had all of the kids with them. This is where the story becomes murky. The counselor later said they went back looking for the boys without mentioning missing anyone that was sleeping.

As Rocky was being found, a tragedy was developing. The two counselors and the kids had lost Je Hodgson. They had discovered his backpack but no tracks leaving the area. The counselors questioned Rocky, who stated that he and Je had stayed together until Rocky decided to hike out for help. It was unclear exactly where the two separated.

The large fires had initiated a response by search and rescue, who got all groups together at the Crystal Ice Caves for a briefing. Unfortunately, at 10:00 pm Tuesday, Mr. Hodgson was advised that his son was missing.

The search and rescue plan to find Je Hodgson was massive. The Civil Air Patrol, Air Force, Bloodhounds, hundreds of ground teams, helicopters, and almost every other tool imaginable was utilized.

Every day hundreds of people and professional searchers left the comfort of their air-conditioned home and spent the day in 100-degree

heat looking for a lost eleven-year-old boy.

Disasters were starting to pile on top of each other as they related to this event. On Friday, June 15, searcher Shirley Egan had collapsed and died. At this point, everyone involved in this event started to realize that the search itself could be deadly. Although, after ten days, law enforcement terminated the search and pulled resources back, Mr. Hodgson was irate. He asked the governor to intervene and requested to deploy soldiers to search. The authorities believed that Je could not have survived 12 days in the heat with the small amount of water he last had.

Several private groups kept searching for the young boy long after the formal searches were over.

With the number of disasters associated with Je Hodgson's disappearance, some would say it was time for God to intervene, and maybe he did.

A June 21,1974 article in the Idaho Press had this unbelievable story, "A dream Tuesday night helped a Blackfoot man to envision in his mind where the body of 11-year-old Je Hodgson of Pocatello, was lying. Although the area had been completely covered by foot patrol, horses, four-wheel-drive vehicles, and motorcycles and flown over by helicopters, the death bed had remained undetected until about noon Thursday when 25-year-old Anthony Sturm walked through the desert straight to the large rock which partially shielded the body of the young Hodgson." Later in the same story was this, "He (Sturm) walked about eight-tenths of a mile west and one and a half miles south before seeing the boy's white straw hat, and then he saw a belt, boots, and socks. The boy's body was lying at the base of a large rock on the south side of the rock near a fissure and a pinnacle opposite him."

The finding of Je stunned the search leaders, community, and his family. He was located in an area that had dozens of footsteps throughout the region that dogs also covered. So how did all of these resources miss him? The boy was surrounded by his clothes, shoes, and boots, a very odd sight.

The coroner stated that Je had been dead for several days as his body had started to decompose badly. He made a statement that Je died of probably heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

The local and national press didn't lose sight of how Je was found and interviewed Mr. Sturm about his magical dream. The June 21, 1974

edition of the Idaho Press had details of the interview, explicitly asking how he received the information, “You have to believe in God,” he said. I’m not a religious man or a lunatic, but I do believe in God. If you do it in the spirit of God or with a feeling of God, God is working through you and using you as an instrument. That’s all I did. I just let it flow, and it all came through. I felt like I was being guided right to him (the boy). It’s uncanny. It’s the first time I’ve had an experience like this, and it really changes your life really quickly. I knew I was going to find him when I went out there. There was no doubt in my mind.”

Mr. Sturm succeeded where every technical resource, trained canine, and thousands of man-hours failed; he found Je Hodgson. I’ve written about many of these types of discoveries, unexplained, magical, phenomenal, paranormal. I’ve documented cases where people have a dream or a vision and are led to a body. This has happened far too many times for this to be pure luck, impossible. I cannot claim that I understand what happens in these instances, and it doesn’t happen when another missing child case occurs. So why did it happen here and not in every incident? Mr. Sturm claimed that God intervened to help him find Je ; why hasn’t God assisted in finding other missing children? Do you remember earlier in the story when the counselor found Je ’s backpack, and it was later determined that they never saw any of Je ’s tracks around it? How is it possible that Je ’s tracks were not located in this area? Rocky said that he and Je had spent time together before he took o alone to look for help. Why would Je leave his lifeline (Food, blanket/shelter), backpack behind?

How did every imaginable resource fail to find Je Hodgson? Was Je even there when searchers were looking?

Profile Points: Point of Separation- Weather- Bloodhounds- Lack of Tracks

Gayla Christine Schaper

Missing: 06/29/1979, Moscow, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 28 5’8”, 135 lb.

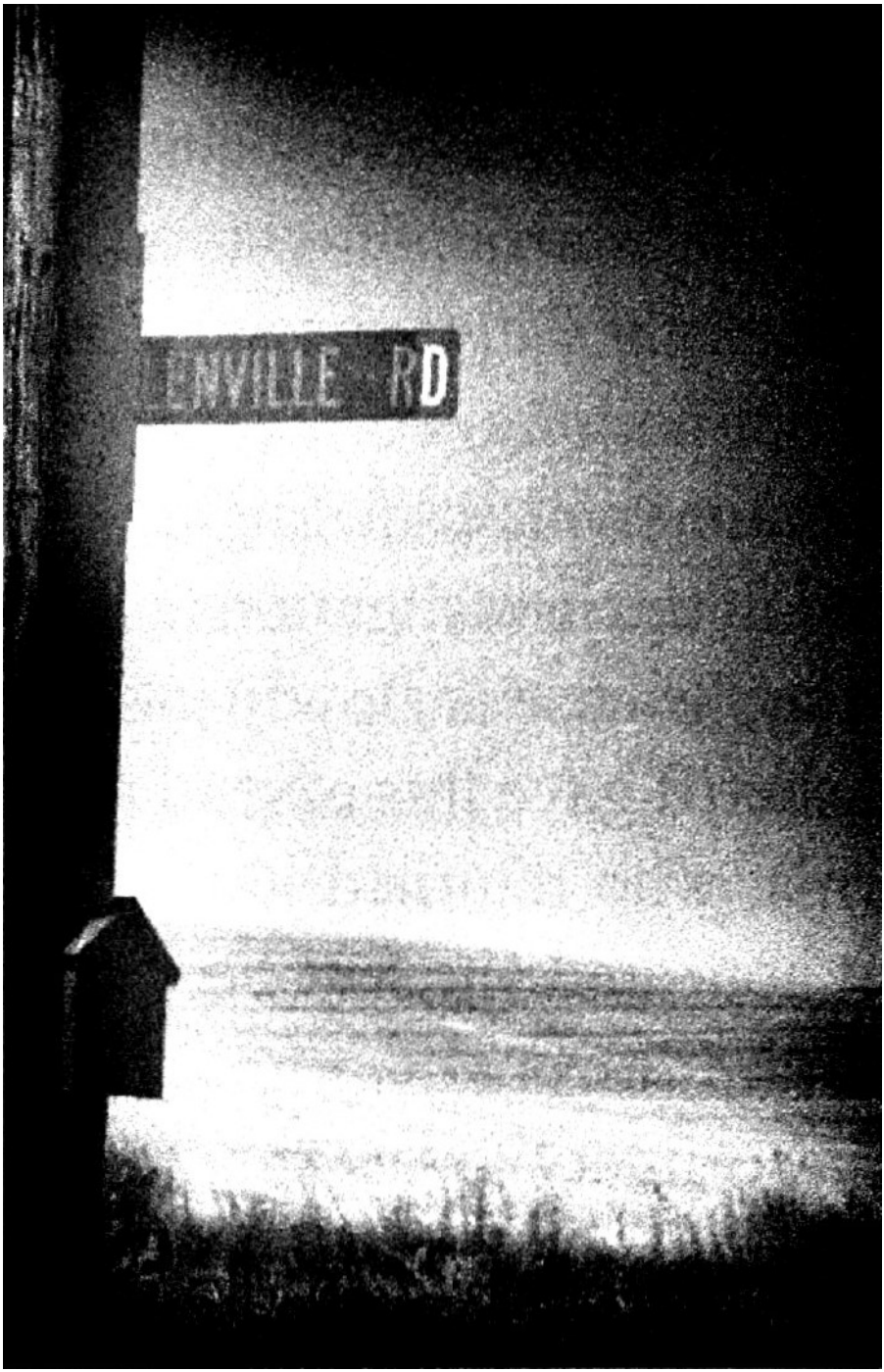
This is one of the instances where I actually went to the area where the Schaper's owned their dairy. The region is a mixture of high- end homes, well-kept farms and ranches, and a few that are very run down. I realize that this isn't representative of what the Lenville Road region looked like in 1979; it still gave me an uncomfortable feeling driving a lonely rural road knowing a young lady vanished. I stopped several times to get my directions right, and each time we were stopped, I never saw another vehicle.

Ken and Gayla Schaper owned Dutchboy Dairy, located east of Moscow. Moscow is less than five miles from the Washington border.

On June 29 at approximately 7:00 p.m., Ken dropped Gayla at their pasture on Lenville Road southeast of Moscow near the intersection with Highway 8 to feed their two horses. Ken dropped her o and then drove into Moscow to wash the car.

This area has gently rolling hills and is filled with farms, ranches, and scattered homes. At 7:45 p.m., Ken returned for his wife, but she was gone. He went to his parent's home in an e ort to locate his Gayle; she wasn't there. Ken returned to their property with his parents and searched the area again. Ken and his parents called the sheri to report his wife missing at about midnight.

Ken advised the sheri that his wife was last seen wearing a blue sweater over a gold v-neck sweater, blue jeans, and tennis shoes.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Ken was considered a suspect in Gayla's disappearance until he took a polygraph and passed. There was complexity in this case involving an individual near the pasture where Gayla was working. According to news sources, law enforcement had some belief that this neighbor may have been involved in the disappearance, but no arrests have been made. Law enforcement did execute search warrants on a nearby property but did not find anything linking Gayla to the location.

The pasture and surrounding area were thoroughly searched the night Gayla disappeared and the following days, but nothing was ever found (excluding clothing) indicating where she might be. People of interest involved in the investigation have passed away, and evidence in the case is slowly passing with time.

The local sheri gave this case to a cold case team from California, who returned it after several weeks stating that it appeared she had been abducted. Various people in the surrounding area that had gone to prison were also interviewed about the case; no arrests have ever been made.

I have great compassion for what Ken has gone through. In these types of cases, it is customary to take a hard look at the husband, and the sheri did. It was only after he took the polygraph he was totally cleared. Thankfully, Ken was able to move on with his life, got remarried, had a son, and now works at an Idaho university.

Gayla Schaper is still considered a missing person, and the case file is still active. I thought about not including this case in the book, but

since she is considered a missing person, clothing was found at the scene, she was never located, and there has never been a suspect named in the case, I placed it here. This case has always been one of the significant missing person cases in Idaho.

Clyde Bowman

Missing 11/08/1981, Lemhi County

Age at disappearance: 57 years

One of the unusual profile points that continually raises its head in investigations is disabilities and injuries. In this incident, the victim

had a disability and was living in a convalescent setting on a ranch in Preston, Idaho. Family members indicated that Clyde could not read or write.

In early November of 1981, family members of Clyde Bowman knew that he wanted them to give him a short vacation from his ranch setting and allow him to accompany them hunting. The family drove to Preston on November 7, picked him up, and drove him to their deer hunting spot in the Camas Creek area of Lemhi County.

The family did not allow Clyde to hunt, but he did walk with the group as they scouted the mountains for their hunt. At 11:15 a.m. on November 8, the group stopped on a small ridge directly above their camp and in full view of the vehicles. They told Clyde to walk the mile down to their site, and they would meet him there a bit later. Clyde said he would and was last seen walking in the direction of the camp. The family arrived and couldn't locate Clyde. They searched the area, called his name, and then one member left to notify the Lemhi County Sheri .

The county seat for Lemhi County is Salmon, and they have a large search and rescue team. The commander of the team was Everett Boggart, and he gathered members for a comprehensive search.

The search for Clyde was focused on the area in and around Flume and Camas Creek. Two canines were summoned from Bonneville. Reports indicated that Mr. Bowman was lasts seen with his horse, yet there was never a mention of the horse or horse tracks ever being found. The canines claimed to have tracked Clyde's prints to an area near a road close to Ramshead Lodge and then lost them. Simultaneous to the ground search, two airplanes flew the skies trying to locate a loose horse of Clyde. Aerial searches found nothing of value.

Some of the locations given by articles don't seem to be close to each other. Ramshead Lodge is located on the Salmon River west of North Fork. The West Fork of Camas Creek is another area that was supposedly searched and is 10-15 miles from the lodge.

I spoke to the current Lemhi County Sheri , Steve Penner, about this incident. He did confirm that Clyde was never found, and he never turned up back at his ranch. However, the sheri also confirmed that it was a comprehensive search with no significant leads.

One of the last articles I reviewed on this incident stated that some

believed that Clyde got a ride out of the area with another hunter. If he did get a ride, what happened to his horse? Why didn't he ever return to his ranch? Why didn't his family ever see him again?

Profile Points: Water, canines, point of separation, disability/ illness

Richard Ray Barnett

Missing: 08/31/1982, Grangeville, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 2 3', 32 lb.

A summer vacation to Grandpa and Grandma's house is something

many of us enjoyed as youngsters. It was a time to get away from the parents, see a new area, and have the grandparents cater to us. I'm sure that Richard "Rickey" Barnett felt the same way when he left his mother's house and went to stay with his grandparents seven miles north of Grangeville, Idaho. Grangeville is in the eastern portion of Idaho near the center of the state. It sits on the northern edge of the Nez Perce National Forest but is mostly gentle rolling hills with farms and ranches.

Waldo and Martha McCoard owned the Hillcrest Farms, a very successful dairy farm in rolling hills north of Grangeville. Jim McCoard was their son and was divorced from Rickey's mom, Judy Barnett. Judy allowed Rickey to spend time on the grandparents' farm and experience a di erent side of life.

On August 31, 1982, Rickey got up early with his grandparents and went onto to the ranch to do chores. The farm was a big operation with employees. The grandparents were in the chick- Richard Ray Barnett en barn preparing for a shipment, and employees were preparing the cows for the day. Rickey was last seen at 7:00 a.m. near the chicken barn. At 10:00 a.m. the grandparents realized he was missing. After searching for thirty minutes, they called the sheri 's department.

The dairy farm is at the end of a half-mile road that comes o the highway. There is no other reason to be on this road unless you are there to see the McCoards. Everyone on the ranch knows when someone comes down the McCoards' road.

By the end of the day, over two hundred people were searching the grounds and surrounding hills for Rickey. The McCoards' pastor from the LDS church was the primary liaison for the family, and he helped with the search e orts. The four-day search would be one of the most intense searches the Idaho County Sheri 's Department had ever undertaken.

Kathy Hedberg, a reporter for the Tribune, wrote a series of articles about the disappearance of Rickey. I was able to interview Kathy by phone about the events. She stated that it was a very large search operation. She was with a canine team that heard an apple had been found in a small valley with a creek. There were small bite marks in the apple. This wild apple was placed on top of a large boulder in the creek. Kathy went with the SAR people and found the apple. The sheri 's team decided a small animal had bitten the apple, and they didn't think it was a viable lead. Kathy also stated that a canine appeared to

pick up Rickey's scent. The dog tracked it to a fence line on the farm and then stopped. The search team didn't quite know what to make of the canine stopping and not going farther than the fence.

Kathy stated that in the last thirty years since Rickey disappeared, there have been two primary theories about what happened to the boy. The original theory was that the grandmother played some role in taking the boy o the farm and gave him to someone to get him away from her stepdaughter. The grandmother later passed a polygraph test and was completely exonerated of any involvement.

The second and most recent theory deals with a ranch hand who left sometime after Rickey disappeared. Law enforcement hasn't been able to contact the man since the disappearance.

Kathy said that the sheri did not believe that a stranger would drive up the McCoards' road and abduct the boy because of the isolation of the ranch.

The Idaho sheri thoroughly searched the Mc- Coards' ranch for four days. The search included helicopters, airplanes, canines, volunteers' horses, and hundreds of interested and willing city folks. On September 7, 1982, Sheri R. W. Walkup made the following statement to the Tribune: "God knows we've done everything we can. If we had a trace, we'd keep going, but we haven't had a clue, not a footprint, not a piece of clothing, not a sound, nothing." The search was o icially terminated, but the case is still alive today. The case file has been passed through three detectives (as each retired, a new detective got the report).

James Schroeder

Missing: 09/25/1982, 3:00 p.m., forty-five miles northeast of Grangeville

Age at disappearance: 23 years

I can remember a trip I took when I was twenty-three years old. I was a policeman; I took a week o and went to pick up three friends in Davis, California. The guys were in veterinary school, and we headed for the Scott River in Northern California to fish and enjoy the outdoors. I was with three young men that were brilliant, had high levels of common sense, loved the outdoors, and were essentially in their element. I knew that during my trip, if anything had happened to me, these guys would've had my back and saved my life. This is a question that anyone headed for the outdoors needs to ask oneself

about the people one is traveling with. Will this person do all he or she can to save me?

James Schroeder, David Benesh, and Dan Cummings were from Wisconsin and loved the outdoors. The guys drove from their homes in Wisconsin to Idaho for elk hunting. The guys were headed for a wilderness camp forty-five miles northeast of Grangeville in an extremely remote location. They contracted to take two mules and one burro that would carry their packs, tents, and supplies.

I will warn you now that many of the articles about this event had conflicting facts. I contacted the Idaho County Sheri 's O ice and was able to obtain all reports associated with the incident. What I am presenting is the o icial facts surrounding the event.

On September 22 the men drove their vehicles into a location o Highway 12 and stopped at the Split Creek trailhead. They packed ten miles into Louse Lake and set their camp overlooking a beautiful spot. The men had gone for elk hunting, but there was one major issue. According to the sheri 's report, the area they were camping was closed for hunting until October 6. In addition to the hunting issue, the men either forgot or didn't think they would need a stove. They were going to cook o an open fire.

There was no mention of what the three young men did on September 23.

On September 24 they did go hunting by themselves. Benesh and Cummings reported to the sheri that James did not return to their camp until 9:00 p.m., and it was after dark. The weather at this point was still good. It was not clear whether James had been lost or was just hunting late.

The morning of September 25 came with the men up early and eating breakfast. James was last seen by his companions leaving camp at quarter after six in the morning, armed with his 7-mm rifle and thirteen rounds of ammunition. The two hunting partners reported that they told James to take a hat, matches, food, and other supplies. He refused. He was wearing a green plaid shirt and brown pants. The weather was reported as good at this point.

At 5:40 p.m., Benesh and Cummings told deputies that they heard two gunshots in the Gedney Creek drainage. They believed it must've come from James, but they weren't sure. As the night got dark, bad weather was quickly moving in. At approximately 10:00 p.m., it started to rain

at their camp. James didn't make it back. There were no notes of Benesh or Cummings going out to look for James, firing o rounds from camp, or even yelling for their friend. At the minimum, they should've built a large bonfire on a nearby ridge to give him a spot to walk toward.

On Sunday, September 26, Cummings reported that he went out of camp to see if he could find any indications of where his friend was located. Benesh stayed in camp as Cummings searched. It was never noted how long Benesh looked for James, but he reported he found nothing. Again, there were no notes of firing rounds, building a bonfire, and so forth.

On Monday, September 27, James was still missing. The notes in the report describe the weather at their camp: "The weather was extremely bad; rain and sleet. Both Cummings and Benesh stayed in camp." After over sixty hours since his hunting partners had last seen James, nobody was looking for the young hunter.

The weather on the morning of September 28 wasn't much better than the previous two days. The small amount of firewood they had gathered prior to the rain was now soaked, and they couldn't light it. The guys made a decision to leave and obtain assistance. Benesh and Cummings couldn't get the burro to follow them out, so they left it. They stated that there was four inches of snow on the ground, and it was still snowing when they departed their camp. Late that afternoon they reported James as a missing person to the Idaho County sheri in Three Rivers.

Benesh and Cummings stopped at the Three Rivers Motel and Resort. At 3:00 p.m. Deputy Loftin from the Idaho County Sheri 's O ice arrived to document the circumstances of the event. The men added that the day James vanished he left at quarter after six in the morning with the intent of hunting Chimney Peak and the area of Old Man Lake. They stated they heard two shots from the area of Gedney Mountain late that afternoon or early evening.

They told the deputy that they were going to drive to Moscow and stay with a brother of James's, Gary Schroeder. This was a 110-mile or more drive through mountain country. The deputy spoke to Gary and asked him if he had heard from James. He stated that he had not. Lastly the men told the deputy that they were going to head back to their mountain camp tomorrow to get the burro and other items they'd left behind.

The formal search for James started on September 29 when an Idaho County deputy along with two others took three saddle horses and three pack horses and left from the Boyd Creek trail on the Selway River to get to the Louse Lake site. Simultaneously, two members from the US Forest Service backpacked in from Gedney Creek. As the two teams were humping their way through rugged country and freezing weather, they were advised by radio that Benesh and Cummings wouldn't be returning to camp that day as they had stated. The teams were told they'd return the following day.

When the deputies arrived at the camp, they found chaos. The area was under a foot of snow. All the gear that had been left behind was soaked, and their tent pole had busted and was down under the snow. The rescuers did fire o two shots and didn't hear anything returned.

Thursday morning, September 30, arrived, and the weather cleared a bit. The deputies called for a search helicopter and got it. It flew the Gedney Creek drainage for what appears to have been several hours. It found nothing. The deputies searched the area around Old Man Lake and the surrounding vicinity and found nothing. At half past five that afternoon, Benesh and Cummings arrived at camp with their two pack mules. The two hunters were questioned by deputies that night and then advised they were calling o the search because of extremely cold temperatures. On October 1, the deputies went out the way they'd come and were followed by Benesh and Cummings. Any hope of finding James alive had just left the mountain.

The sheri 's deputy who chronicled the event in the o icial report made a section called "additional notes." His notes are below.

Cummings and Benesh never fired any signal shots to help the victim. Only Cummings had a rifle and he said he never thought of it. Benesh said it was because Cummings loaded his own shells and didn't feel he had any to spare.

When Cummings and Benesh left camp, they left no dry wood or matches in case the victim returned. If the victim had made it back to camp after they'd left, we feel he would have died there.

When asked why one didn't stay while one went out for help, they said they were afraid one man by himself would get lost on the trail.

They gave no reason why they waited until Thursday to return from Moscow. We could see no reason for them to spend two full nights in Moscow.

We feel that dressed the way he was, without matches or food and taking the weather into consideration, the victim could not have lasted long. We feel he was dead before we ever started the search. We also feel that his chances for survival were lessened because his hunting companions failed to do one thing right to help him. If they would've fired signal shots the victim quite possibly could have heard them. Also, if one of them would have went for help right away, the search party might have been searching while the victim as still alive.

Neither the victim or his companions were equipped enough or knowledgeable enough to be that far from a road. Cummings and Benesh were advised of our feelings on the subject. They packed in no feed for their pack animals as well as no stove or lantern. Their camp gear was scattered over a 30 foot area and under a foot of snow.

I hope that every hunter in the world reads that last piece written by the deputy. There are many who could learn from these mistakes, and this advice could save lives.

The last item in the report was a letter from Marie Schroeder, James's sister. She asked the sheri 's department to give her the exact location that the search had centered on. She stated that she was still going to try to find her brother.

James was never found.

Robert Acree

Missing: 07/05/1983—8:00 p.m., Sweetwater, ID Age at disappearance: 4 years

Weather • Missing Clothing • Water • Canine

A child walking o into the wilderness isn't a story, it happens often and is somewhat normal. A child that doesn't respond to their parents calling and is found naked, near a creek, canines could not locate him, and rain inundated the area, we then take notice.

On July 5, 1983, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Acree had taken their 4-year-old son Robert with them on a camping trip to Sweetwater campground outside of Sweetwater, Idaho. The region is flat, few trees and bushes and nearly barren when you move away from the water. At 8:00 p.m., Robert took a short walk to the bathroom and vanished. The parents searched for the boy, called his name and found nothing. They turned to fellow campers for assistance. The search by the locals failed to produce anything and the parents then summoned the Nez

Perce County Sheri .

Deputies started arriving quickly and understood that a boy that age in that environment should be found in a radius of 2 miles from the point last seen. They initiated a methodic grid search almost immediately; nothing was found. A call was made for canines to respond as it appeared that the boy had somehow moved out of the immediate 2-mile area. The deputies also called for air support.

The morning of July 6 started with a helicopter and airplane searching the skies and search dogs arriving on scene and given a scent. Many hours transpired with dozens of professional and volunteer searchers, dogs, and airplanes crisscrossing the area. A July 7, 1983, edition of The Spokane Chronicle had these details of what happened next, “A 4-year-old Lewiston boy was found cold, naked and crying Wednesday afternoon after a nearly 19-hour search.” Later in the same article was this, “The youngster wearing cowboy boots, jeans and a shirt when he disappeared, apparently shed his clothes, Jones noted, because they were wet and cold. He’d gotten rained on pretty good. He was shook up.”

Robert was located one half to three quarters of a mile from the location he was last seen. A plane, helicopter, eight deputies, three search dogs and sixty searchers failed to find the boy inside the primary search area for over 19 hours, how is that possible? If the boy took his clothes o , where were they? Jones’ statement about why the boy’s clothes were removed was merely guessing why they were gone, he never knew.

If you look at this as a stand-alone incident, it really means nothing and the case is put in a file and forgotten. When I line up dozens of disappearances with relevant facts that are identical, people start to question how it can happen. It’s apparent that searchers were in the area that Robert was found, why didn’t he answer? Was he even there when searchers were looking? The boy was located near a creek; water is often associated with the disappearance of a small child and the location for their eventual recovery.

This is one of the few incidents I’ve documented where the ending was great for the family and searchers.

Ryan Hoe liger

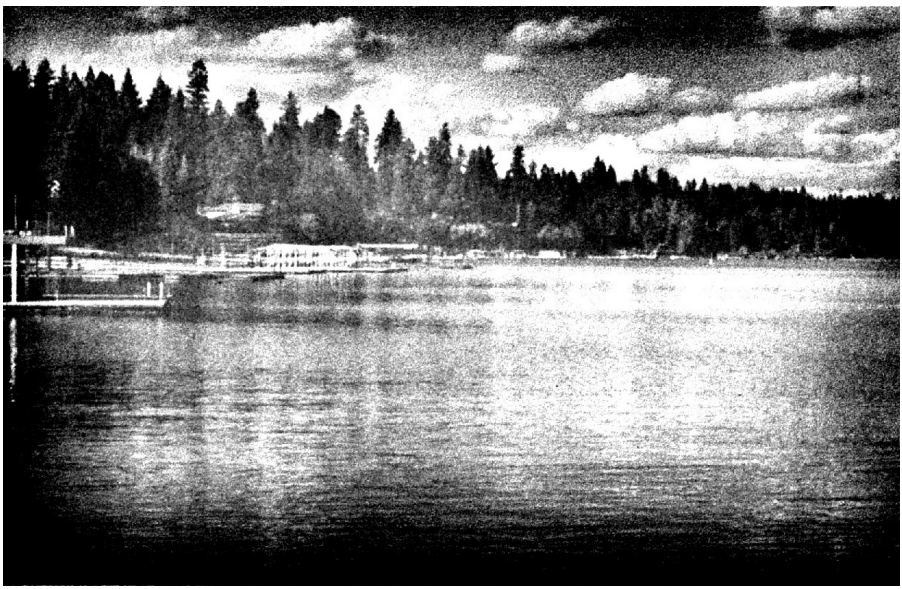
Missing: 01/11/1984-5:30 a.m., Hayden Lake, ID Age at disappearance: 2 years

This story originally appeared in my last book, Missing 411-The Devil's in the Detail. Once you read the story, you'll immediately understand the relevance. Think about the victims that disappeared inside a building, and nobody saw them leave and there was no evidence they walked out the door. Each of the victims was later found in water, dead.

Many of the loyal readers of my books will quickly realize that this story is di erent than every other missing person case I've documented. Once you get into the minutia of the details, you will understand why it is here.

This incident occurred in a cluster zone near the Idaho and Washington border just four miles northeast of Coeur d'Alene in a small town named Hayden. The specific area of the search happened at Hayden Lake on the east side of the city. The lake has a country club and residential neighborhood to the west, and mountains and a heavily wooded area covers the water's edge to the east. The lake has forty miles of shoreline and sits at an elevation of 2,239 feet.

The Hoe liger family lived in a residence on East Dakota Road approximately one and a half to two miles from the west side of Hayden Lake. On the night of January 10-11, 1984, there were four people sleeping in the residence with one Doberman pinscher living in the backyard. Two-year-old Ryan had broken his crib and was sleeping in his sister Shawna's bed, in her room.



At approximately 5:00 a.m. on January 11, Shawna got out of bed to use the restroom. She came back into the room and saw Ryan lying in the bed between her and the wall. She thinks she remembers hearing her family's dog barking, and she went back to sleep. At 7:30 a.m. Shawna awoke and found Ryan gone. She walked into her parents' room and woke them, and they looked around the house for the boy. They found all of the doors closed. The front door was un-locked, as the family knew they needed a new lock. Once the family knew that Ryan wasn't in the immediate area, the Kootenai County sheri 's o ice was called.

Once the deputy arrived, the parents explained that they had found all the doors closed. They stated that Ryan knew how to open some of the doors but never closed them; these were all closed. The deputy interviewed Shawna, and she said that she never heard or felt Ryan leave the bed and never heard her dog bark, which he usually did when doors were opened. The parents stated that they also never heard a door open or close and never heard the dog bark. The parents even commented that they believed the Doberman appeared to be extremely lethargic and acting outside its normal behavior.

The deputy called for additional assistance. Depending on the articles you read, it is one and a half to two miles from the Hoe liger residence to Hayden Lake. A map shows that if you walked a direct route, you'd have to cross several roadways, a golf course and several fairways, and probably pass at least forty homes. Deputies searched the home and investigated every possible point of entry. They found nothing forced open.

Approximately seven hours after Ryan was reported missing, a volunteer searcher found the boy's body underneath a dock on the west side of Hayden Lake. The dock belonged to a seasonal home that was vacant at the time. Deputies found the deceased boy wearing just a diaper.

The command sta at the sheri 's o ice immediately felt that something was odd. They did not believe that Ryan could've walked that distance in freezing-cold temperatures. They also found it unreal that he was able to leave the residence without waking his parents or causing the dog to bark. They looked at the child's feet and didn't see bruising or scratches that would be indicative of a long walk. They canvassed the neighborhood and the golf course and found no-body that had witnessed the boy walking that distance.

Ryan went to bed wearing pajama bottoms; these were never found

even though multiple dive teams entered Hayden Lake looking for evidence. They found nothing. Searchers also scoured the area along a path that Ryan might have walked and found nothing. Ryan's body was sent to the coroner for an autopsy. A December 24,1985, article in the Spokesman Review had the following: "Authorities initially cited murder as the probable cause of death; autopsy results indicated the boy drowned, though results weren't conclusive." If you've read my earlier books, you know that in many cases that happen under unusual circumstances, where a small child dies, the coroner cannot confirm the cause of death. The local coroner stated that drowning was a probable cause. The sheri requested that the body be sent for further federal testing. The federal autopsy could not determine the cause of death.

Because of the concern of Ryan's parents about the lethargic state of the family dog, the sheri had the dog tested. It was found that the Doberman was not drugged or poisoned.

I have written about many cases where two-year- olds travel unreal distances, and the incident is not questioned. I applaud the Kootenai County sheri for realizing the distance, time, weather, and circumstances make no sense. It seems like an impossibility that the event unfolded as it did. Ryan is sleeping between his sister and the wall; he leaves the bed, and the sister is not wakened. He allegedly leaves the residence with or without aid; doors are never heard opening or closing, and the family dog never barks. This almost appears as though everyone in this residence was in the deepest sleep of his or her life.

The deputies working this case have publicly stated many times that they do not believe that Ryan walked to the lake by himself and without aid. The diaper that Ryan was wearing at the time he was found was shown to his parents; this was not the type of diaper they used. Something very, very unusual happened inside the Hoe liger residence between 5:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

If Ryan was abducted, the suspect had the boy in his or her presence for only a very short period of time.

Deputies started searching almost immediately upon arrival at the home, and volunteers and deputies were scouring the neighborhood continually. There is no suspect who would risk identification by dumping a body in a nearby lake with homes in the immediate vicinity when wilderness and isolation is just miles away. This case reminds me of the disappearance of Ann Marie Burr from her

residential home in Tacoma, Washington, on August 31, 1961. Ann's mom woke at 5:30 a.m. and realized her eight-year-old daughter was missing from inside the home. This story was covered in Missing 411-North America and Beyond. In the Burr incident, the family dog was inside their residence the entire night, and it never made a sound. Ann Marie was never found.

The Ryan Hoe liger case is still an open file at the Kootenai County sheri 's o ice. As late as 2006, a cold case team worked the incident in an attempt to develop leads. No suspect has ever been named.

Tina Marie Finley

Missing: 03/07/1988, Plummer, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 25 5'6", 135 lb.

This is a story about a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Benewah County.

Tina Finley was at a bar in Plummer the night she disappeared. Near the end of the night, she was last seen at the Circle H Saloon. Tina had a male friend drive her back to the area of her residence on an American Indian Reservation. He said he dropped her at a dirt road near the back of her home near the railroad tracks and left. She was never seen again. It was raining very heavily when Tina was dropped o . It would be two weeks before anyone reported Tina as a missing person.

MISSING PERSON

TINA MARIE FINLEY

Plummer, Idaho
March 8, 1988

Photograph taken in 1987

DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: August 25, 1962
Place of Birth: Washington
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 135 pounds (at the time of disappearance)
Sex: Female
Race: Native American

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to $10,000 for information leading to the location of Tina Marie Finley.

DETAILS

Tina Marie Finley, a 25 year-old member of the Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Tribe of Indians, has been missing since March 8, 1988. She was last seen in Plummer, Idaho, and was reported missing days later. The investigation suggests she may have been the victim of foul play.

This case is being investigated by the FBI's Coeur d'Alene Resident Agency and the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police Department. If you have any information concerning this case, please contact the FBI's Salt Lake City Field Office tip line at (801) 579-6636. You may also contact your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

Field Office: Salt Lake City

Tina's purse, ID, and shoes were found on the side of the road in the area where she was dropped o . Additionally, authorities found other property belonging to Tina in an abandoned house ten miles south near the city of DeSmet.

Besides the original search for Tina, a second search was conducted in early April 1988, two miles south of Plummer along Highway 95, but no new evidence was found. The friend who dropped Tina o has passed a polygraph test and is not a suspect. However, the FBI has entered this case because the incident happened on a reservation.

Tina had very few breaks in her life. She was one of six kids that were broken up and placed in foster care because of a family history of alcohol abuse. At a young age, Tina hitchhiked across several states and was eventually raised by an uncle.

In 1992 deputies put divers in a pond in the region that Tina was last seen in an e ort to locate her body; they found nothing. In the fall of

1991, deputies did a search warrant on a Plummer Idaho resident and found Tina's coat. Remember, many of her belongings were found strewn along a road, so anyone could've picked up the coat; then again, maybe someone was a suspect.

Tina's family had complained about the Bureau of Indian A airs Investigator that initially had the case. In the years 1990's another investigator got the case and has been working hard with an FBI agent.

Harvey Pratt is the retired Assistant Director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation and a Native American Chief. Harvey and I are best friends and have penned two books together. We have had many talks about the wrath of crime that has taken over Native American Reservations. He has stated that there is a lack of law enforcement and investigators, and the community has a habit of not wanting to talk to the police about crime on their property, thus making it di icult to solve anything.

This case has always intrigued me because she was dropped in a rural area, but she knew a region well. Much of her belongings were found at an abandoned home and along a road. The road issue is confusing. If you were a criminal, you wouldn't want to be dumping incriminating articles on a roadway when someone pulled up behind you.

There has never been a suspect identified.

**Note- Multiple articles stated that Tine was last seen on March 7 and others said March 8.

Jack Huckabay

Missing: 10/10/1988, Elk City

Age at disappearance: 78

Before I start this story, please look at the Idaho missing map and reference this case just east of Grangeville. You will notice a large cluster of missing people in a very defined area. I have spent considerable time driving this region in a 4x4, the road is rough, and the mountains are gorgeous. Do not attempt to go o -road in this area without a high clearance four- wheel-drive vehicle. Some of these roads look decent when you first start the drive; they all get narrow and rough very quickly.

Jack Huckabay was born in Oklahoma and, before this incident, had lived in Sacramento, California, since 1934. He was employed for decades as a carpenter and traveled throughout the greater Sacramento area, working various jobs. He was married to Jean, and the pair had one boy and two girls.

Jack was an outdoorsman who loved wildlife and specifically enjoyed hunting in Idaho and the area between Grangeville and Elk City. He had hunted this specific region for thirty-five years. Any idea that Jack Huckabay didn't know his way around these mountains is rubbish.

Just like he had done for the previous thirty-four years, in early October of 1988, Jack and a few friends loaded their vehicles and

made the 735-mile drive to the forest east of Grangeville along the South Fork of the Clearwater River. The stream in this area isn't deep, you can cross it this time of the year in most locations, and the average width is approximately twenty feet. Jack had a medical exam before his trip and was found to be in excellent health. Some articles made comments that he had fainting spells, but that conflicted with other reports. The sheri also stated that Jack sometimes had di iculty with directions; again, I don't know where he got that.

In the A.M. hours of October 10, 1988, Jack told his friends that he would take a short walk into the woods to hunt. He explained where he was going and said it wouldn't be far. Although, after several hours, the elk hunter didn't return and the friends started to search and call his name, there was no response. Finally, one of the hunters returned to camp, drove to Elk City, and notified the resident Idaho County Deputy that there was a missing person.

The sheri mustered over fifty deputies, equestrians and dog teams, locals, and SAR personnel to locate Jack. The search started late in the day on October 10 and continued through October 18. This was a monumental SAR e ort for this area of Idaho. The Sacramento Bee of October 18,1988, had the following statement from The Idaho County Sheri 's Office, "I'm mystified. It's a very small space where we are looking," said Sgt. Herb Lindsey who said he and a few others plan to continue an uno icial search for the lost hunter. "It's a very small area. Normally we could have been able to locate a man of that age. A healthy person could have walked out of the roads in the surrounding area," Lindsey said." The formal search for the Sacramento resident was over on October 18.

I cannot remember the number of times formal searches have failed and a volunteer finds someone precisely in the middle of the area that had been searched, but it happened again. Here is the quote from the October 28, 1988 edition of the Sacramento Bee, "The Idaho County Sheri 's O ice said Thursday that a volunteer searcher discovered the body of Jack Huckabay on Wednesday night about a half-mile from where he was last seen on October 10. O icials said Huckabay apparently died of a heart attack or stroke. His son-in-law, Paul Williams, said Huckabay was found near a tree stump where he had been sitting while taking o his boot." There are many things in this statement that are highly suspicious. The news that he died of a heart attack or stroke is a complete guess; he apparently never went for autopsy. Second, everyone involved in this search knew Jack was going to walk less than a half-mile; they knew he would be in this radius. With fifty people and canines searching such a confined area, I

find it nearly impossible for them not to find Jack; the deputy even commented on the site being very confined. Lastly, how does anyone know how or why that boot came o Jack's foot?

Jack's body was returned to Sacramento, where the family had a formal funeral.

If you are new to the 411 arena, this story may seem mundane. But it's right on key. Jack was a hunter, a sub-group of missing I have written about. He was hunting the area adjacent to the South Fork of the Clearwater River, water. Jack was in the presence of his friends and told them where he was going and walked o into the forest, point of separation. One of Jack's boots was o his foot, missing boots or clothing. Multiple canines were used in the search; none picked up his scent; hounds could not find a scent. These profile points will show themselves in many, many cases throughout the world.

Joshua Lewis Kern

Missing 07/13/1990-6 p.m., Harriman State Park, ID Age at Disappearance: 2 years

Harriman State Park is located ten miles west of the Wyoming border, six miles south of Island Park and sits in the middle of several bodies of water. It is just two miles southeast of Island Park Reservoir and is almost next to Silver Lake and Golden Lake. The park consists of sixteen thousand acres and is considered to be in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem as it sits just west of the national park.

On July 13, 1990, at approximately 6 p.m., Richard and Jackie Lewis were with Joshua at the park for a family reunion. The Kerns lost sight of their son Joshua and soon realized they couldn't locate him. Inside of two hours, there were over one hundred and fifty searchers looking for the two-year-old. A helicopter equipped with FLIR was requested from the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory along with multiple canine search teams. The Fremont County sheri was leading the search for the boy.

Very soon after Joshua vanished, the weather changed drastically. A steady, heavy rain hit the area and continued through the following day. The Kerns were staying at the park's dormitory and maintained vigilance while partaking in the search.

A July 14 article in the Chronicle Telegram explained what happened on that day's search: "A 2-year- old boy missing 18 hours in heavy timber country in a steady rain was found safe and apparently

unharmed Friday afternoon, the Fremont County Sheri stated." The boy had evaded dogs, ground searchers, and aerial reconnaissance for the entire time until found. Later in the same article, there was this on the find: "The sheri 's o ice said a woodcutter heard a whimper Friday afternoon and spotted the boy curled up in deep grass in an area that had been searched before."

A July 14 article from the Dayton Daily News had this about the boy's response to what he did and where he went: "Garrett (Fremont County Sheri) said it's uncertain whether o icials will ever learn what happened to Joshua and how he spent the night. He's just 2, he couldn't really say much to tell us what happened." There was no mention what Joshua was or was not wearing when found.

Summary

Canines and aircraft utilizing FLIR didn't find Joshua. Where was the boy when the aircraft was in the air? Articles stated that he was found one thousand yards from the point he was last seen. One thousand yards away, and searchers continued to miss him even though the sheri stated he was found in an area previously searched. How many times have you read this in the last two books? Trust me on this point, searchers are not that inept, the boy wasn't there when the searchers were. How the boy got back into the search area is the million dollar question.

The Kems had been in the park a little over a day when Joshua vanished. There were di erent reports from multiple press sources about what time the boy was found. One source said noon, one said 2 p.m., and another said 2:20 p.m. Joshua was found lying on the ground whimpering, a common way to find children described in these books. If you have been following and reading the stories I have presented, you realize that the vast majority of the elements in the other missing-persons cases was prevalent here.

Susan Seymour Adams

Missing: 09/30/1990-Unk, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, ID

Age at disappearance: 42 years

Susan Seymour Adams was raised in Austin, Texas. Her mother was an employee at Nambe Mills, a retailer with many stores. Once Susan disappeared, Nambe Mills held benefits to raise money for her search. The e ort got national attention; you may have seen the associated publicity.

Susan and her husband, Tom, had taken a guided horseback trip into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness for hunting. The hunter's camp was established twenty air miles west of Hamilton near Battle Lake. On September 30, 1990, Susan took her bird-watching book and camera and took a short hike out of camp, saying she'd be back soon. Susan didn't come back. Hunters, hikers, and volunteers searched for eight days and found nothing. At the end of the eighth day, rain and snow hit the area, and search e orts were terminated. Snow continued for many days and covered any evidence that would've led to her discovery. There was a secondary search that started in early October. This e ort had to stop after two days because of heavy rain. There was a third search in July 1991, and again nothing was found.

Approximately one year after Susan had vanished, this article appeared in the September 22,1991, Santa Fe New Mexican: "On September 30, 1990, Susan Seymour Adams walked out of a hunting camp in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area and disappeared. Intensive searches were conducted following her disappearance, but were hampered by the remoteness of the area, the rugged terrain and snow. Additional e orts in July 1991 after the snow melted were also unsuccessful. Based upon the local sheri 's o ice investigations and the professionals, an Idaho district judge on July 19, 1991, declared Susan dead of injuries and/or exposure as of September 30, 1990."

You will not read about Susan on any database, and she's not listed as a missing person. She has o icially been declared dead without her body ever being found.

Susan is also another of a long line of people who have disappeared with a camera in their hand. There are several people who have taken a short hike and seemed to evaporate away. Remember, she wasn't going to hike far; she hadn't taken extra supplies, and nobody found a trace.

Casey Holliday

Missing 10/14/1990-10 a.m., Alder Creek St, Maries, ID

Age at Disappearance: 11 years

**Disabled

**Add to Washington/Idaho Cluster

The disappearance of Casey Holliday has every element in it that I have described in past books regarding children who disappear from rural homes. These elements continue to replicate themselves day after day, state after state; they can't be ignored.

Casey was a developmentally disabled child who was living with his aunt, Ginger Holliday. On October 14,1990, Casey was in the rural yard of his aunt's home playing with his St. Bernard named Caleb. When Casey's aunt went into the yard to check on the boy, he and the dog had disappeared.

The Hollidays were living along Alder Creek eight miles south of St. Maries, Idaho, and approximately twenty miles south of Spokane, an area that has had many such disappearances and is an identified cluster in Missing 411-Western United States.

Ginger searched the immediate yard of the home, yelled Casey's name, and then called the sheri for assistance. The sheri focused on Alder Creek and the area around the residence but could find nothing to point in any direction. A call was made to the North Idaho Correctional Center in Cottonwood for two of the facility's tracking canines. The handlers were en route to the Holliday home and were due to arrive early Monday morning.

Casey was a fifth-grader at Heyburn School, and he was considered developmentally delayed, says Ginger. At times the boy had been described as fairly normal, and at times he had di iculty in keeping up at school. He had always stayed in their yard, and the dog had always kept him busy. His disappearance was puzzling to Ginger, since Casey had never gone outside the fence line of the yard.

The Sunday that Casey disappeared had very bad weather, rain, lightning, and hail. The bad weather continued nonstop through Sunday and Monday. The rain and hail had searchers worried about Casey developing hypothermia, and they hoped he stayed with Caleb to keep him warm.

One hundred searchers committed all Monday and Monday night to looking for the boy. Canines attempted to find a scent, and planes were looking for any sign from the air.

On Tuesday, Ginger decided to assist the search teams in their e orts to find Casey. An October 16 article in the Spokane Chronicle explains what happened: “While more than 100 searchers used aircraft and shoe leather to scour a wooded mountain for a lost eleven-year-old boy, the boy’s aunt turned down a remote forest road she’d never driven before and found him. T know how I found him. God, that’s how,’ said the aunt, Ginger Holliday. ‘It’s amazing—so you can understand why I’m giving God the credit.’” Casey was found in a gully in an extremely remote road up from Alder Creek. The same article stated that Casey was found with blue toes and with Caleb. He was flown to Benewah Community Hospital in St. Maries by helicopter from Fairchild Air Force Base.

Casey was missing exactly 48 hours as he was found at 10 a.m., one mile from Ginger’s home. He was located in a gully, a creek bed. He was not wearing shoes, and he was with his dog. The Tuesday that he was found was the first day in three days that it hadn’t rained or hailed. The road that Ginger was traveling was a road she had never been on before, and she couldn’t explain why she was on it.

Ginger told the press that when Casey was found, he was babbling and seemed in a daze.

Summary

Here is a just a quick summary of the elements present in Casey’s disappearance that match the general guidelines of the cases cited in “Missing 411” books:

• Victim has a disability.

• Victim was playing with his or her dog at time of disappearance. • Victim leaves with dog.

• Inclement weather hits the area at the time the victim disappears.

• Search dogs cannot find the victim’s scent.

• Victim is found uphill from where they go missing.

• Victim is found in a creek bed.

• Victim is found without shoes.

• Victim is found dazed or confused.

• Searchers cannot find the victim—a relative found Casey.

• Victim is another part of a growing cluster of missing.

It's almost as though someone spoke into Ginger's mind and told her to drive down the rural road.

Brian Sines

Missing: 11/22/1991, southeast of Clarkia, Idaho Age at disappearance: 29

Brian Sines was an employee of the Potlach Lumber Mill in St. Maries, Idaho. He had a day o of work and decided to go to the mountains south of Clarkia on a hunting trip. Brian failed to arrive at work Monday morning, so friends and relatives went to the area he was hunting, where they found his truck. A February 27, 1992, article in the Spokane Chronicle reported the following: "They found Sines' pickup parked in the middle of a forest service road as if he had stopped suddenly and jumped out to chase a deer. Searchers followed his tracks up a ridge but lost them on the other side."

The writer of the article obviously made an assumption that Brian was chasing a deer. I say that he saw something that attracted his attention to the point that he stopped in the middle of the road and left his truck. Once his friends found the truck, they brought in search dogs to pick up a scent. The dogs followed a trail up a ridgeline and then stopped. Searchers scoured the area but could not locate Brian.

Nothing happened in the Brian Sines case until a water-measuring team went into the wilderness to measure the snowpack on February 25, 1992. The team found a bone and pieces of bone near the bottom of a ridgeline and notified law enforcement.

Shoshone County Sheri ’s O ice responded to the location and found keys, credit cards, and clothing that was later identified as belonging to Brian Sines.

Searchers found an intact clavicle, one arm bone, and one leg bone, but many pieces of bone were scattered across and down the ridge. There were some thoughts that Brian may have fallen, but no bones were found broken. Bones were found in pieces, but that was attributed to animals.

The coroner made a determination that Brian died of exposure—a very bold statement. Brian was only five miles from his truck, which seems odd. If he did bolt from the truck to chase something, it would seem odd that he’d travel five miles knowing his truck was blocking a forest service road. I would understand a short chase and maybe firing a few rounds if he saw something. The idea that he stayed with whatever he was chasing for five miles, equaling at least an hour chase, seems very unusual. It’s possible Brian died somewhere else and was carried to the ridge, but we will never know.

Charles Dehner

Missing: 07/16/1992, Priest Lake

Age at disappearance: 74

In the far northwest corner of Idaho is a beautiful region highlighted

by Priest Lake. This body of water is fifteen miles from the Canadian border and eighty miles northeast of Spokane, Washington. The lake has had three names since the 1800s; Father Desmet named it Roothaan Lake in 1846 to honor a superior he had in Rome. It was also called Kaniksu Lake by Captain John Mullan on a map he authored. In the early 1900s, it was changed to Priest Lake in honor of the Jesuit missionary priests who had established a camp in the 1840s in Kalispell Bay.

According to a United States Department of Agriculture internet site, the world's largest Mackinaw Trout was caught at Priest Lake in 1963. The lake also has large numbers of Bull Trout, Cutthroat, and Kokanee Salmon.

The region around Priest Lake is well known as a year-round vacation spot. Outdoor activities in northern Idaho and around the lake include boating, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and snowmobiling. The lake itself is 19 miles long, 300 feet deep, and has over 80 miles of shoreline. Upper Priest Lake and the main lake are connected by a body of water that is only accessible by foot, mountain bike, or boat, per the Idaho Parks Department.

This story deals with a disappearance while berry picking, a sub-group that I have written about many times. I don't understand why so many people picking berries have vanished and have not been found. In my prior books, I have stated that the one berry people pick with the most

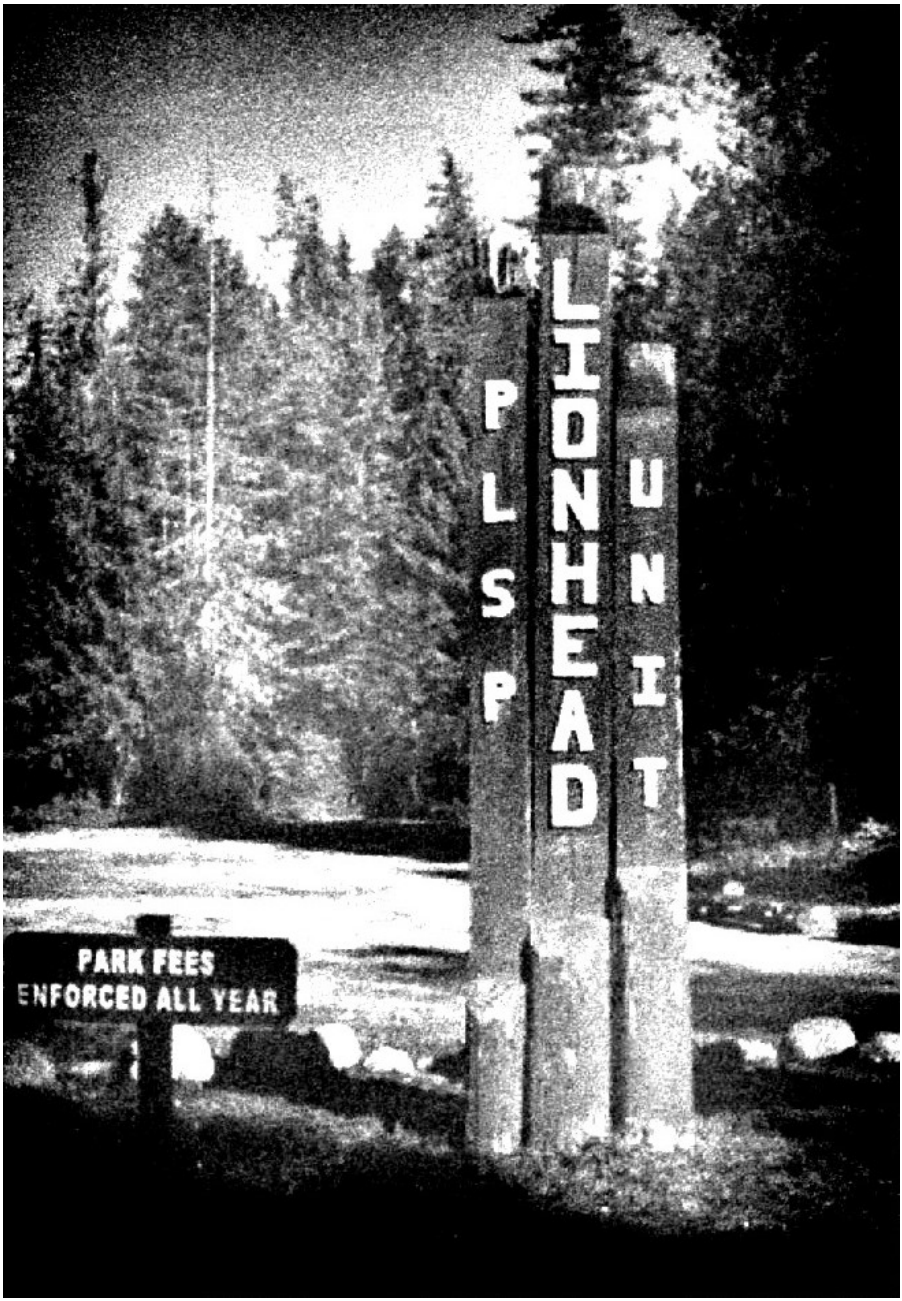
missing associated is Huckleberries.

The focus of this story involves Charles Dehner, who was born in Burlington, Iowa, graduated from Burlington High School, and obtained his bachelor's degree from Bradley University in Illinois. During World War II, Charles enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he became a flight instructor and reached the rank of Captain.

In 1953, Charles moved to Spokane, Washington, took a job with the Long Lake Lumber Company, and stayed for 29 years, retiring in 1982 as the General Manager. Mr. Dehner married Jean, and they had two daughters, Carol and Kathy. Life was good for the Dehners; they purchased a cabin in Sandpiper Shores on the north end of Priest Lake and enjoyed walking in the wilderness and enjoying the area's wildlife.

In mid-July of 1992, Jean and Charles were in excellent health and made their way to their cabin at the lake. It was Huckleberry picking time, and the pair enjoyed going after the berries. The area around the lake is scattered with streets, homeowners associations, and businesses with the name "huckleberry," it is a trendy pass time.

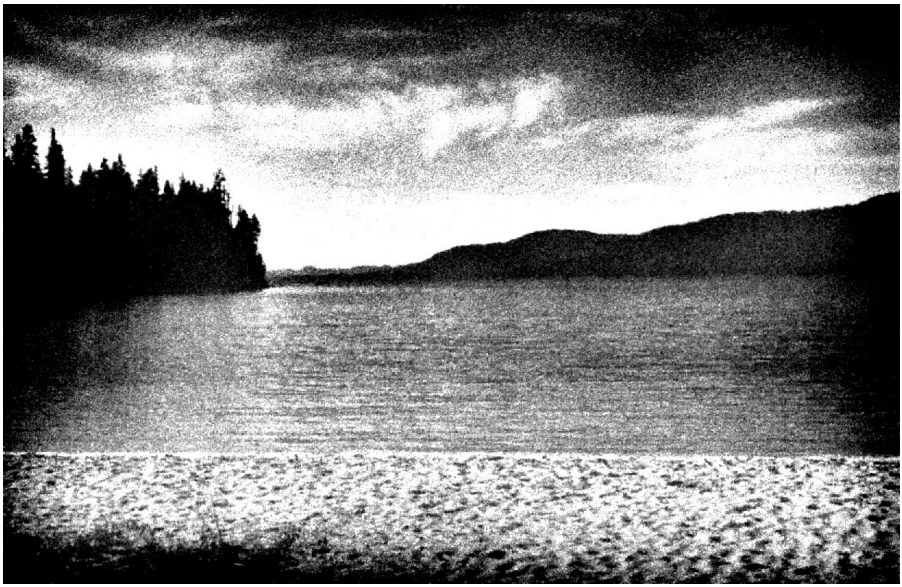
On July 16, 1992, Jean and Charles drove their two-tone Chevrolet Blazer up forest road 74, parked, and entered the forest to pick berries. Sometime after noon, the pair got separated; it is unclear how this happened. At 2:00 p.m., Jean went back to the truck and a pre-arranged time and couldn't locate Charles. He had the keys to the Blazer, and Jean decided to walk the eight miles back down the mountain to the Lionhead Campground late in the day.



Lionshead Unit Campground sign. Jean was able to flag down a motorist for assistance and requested the sheri to respond to find her husband. The United States Forest Service and Bonner County Sheri 's O ice responded to the scene.

Per the Bonner County Sheri 's report, the Dehner vehicle was located

on Forest Road 74. The sheri requested search and rescue respond to assist in the e ort to find Mr. Dehner. Jean reported that her husband was 74 years old, wearing a baseball cap, red plaid shirt, black pants, leather boots, and was in excellent physical condition.



View of Priest Lake looking towards Sandpiper Shores.

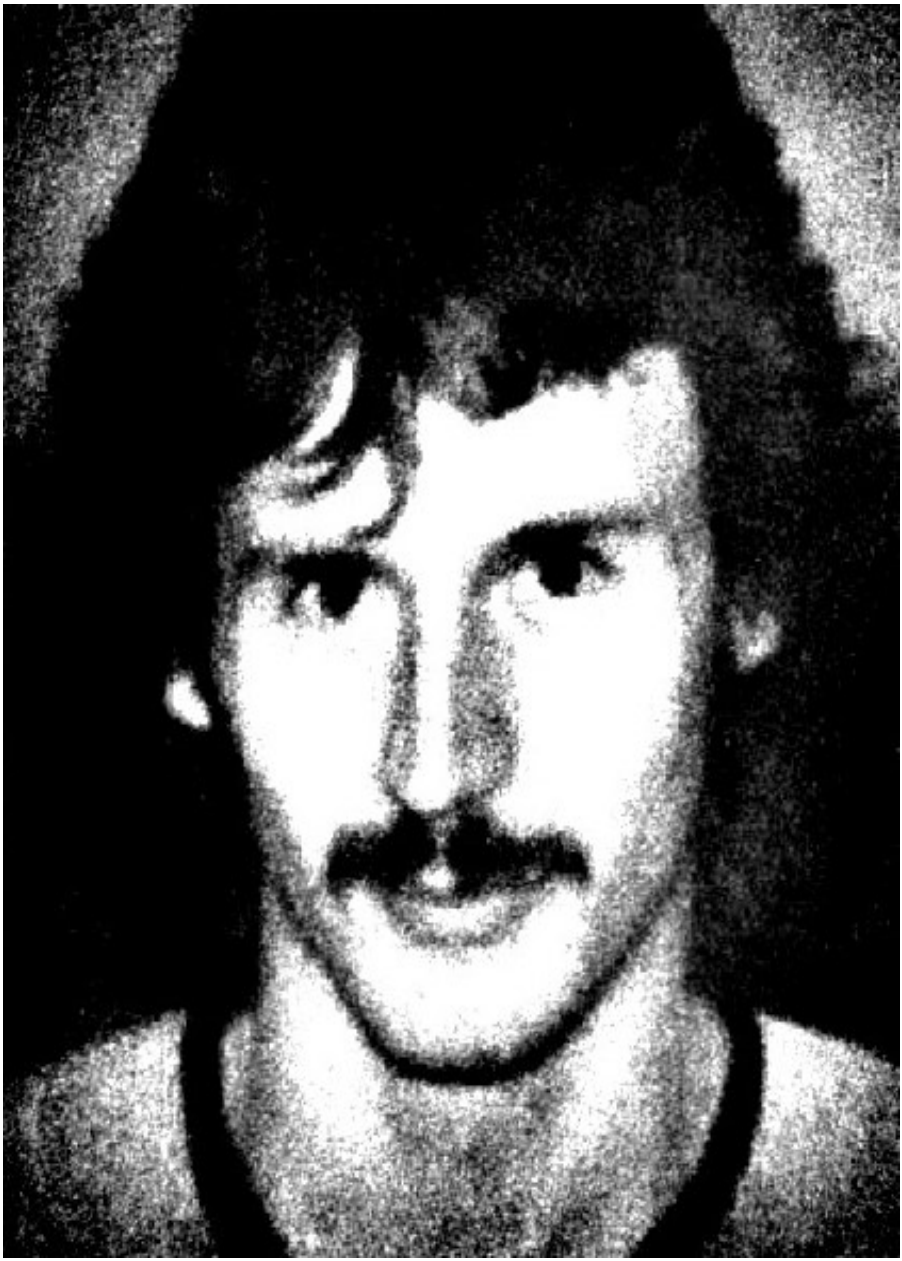
Bonner County had search teams respond from Priest River, Clark Fork, the Forest Service, Ida-ho Parks Department, and the Kootenai and Bonner County Sheri 's O ice. Bloodhounds were dispatched from Priest River. Scott Air Force Base sent two helicopters to search from the sky.

The search was well organized and comprehensive. Charles had a vacation home in this area and knew the mountains well. There were many theories about what may have happened; none made much sense. One group thought he had a stroke and died; well, cadaver dogs would have picked up the scent. Other people believed that Mr. Dehner got lost, wandered into the forest, and died; that makes no sense. Every creek in the area where they were picking empties into the lake, all he had to do was follow the water downhill. One theory that had some possibilities was that he was attacked by a Grizzly bear and died. Still, cadaver dogs would have picked up the scent and found the body.

After four days of intensive searching, the primary e ort to locate Mr.

Dehner was over. I cannot imagine the drive back to Spokane that Jean had to make in the Blazer without Charles. The great memories that Priest Lake brought to the Dehner family were forever changed by losing Charles. While the primary search for Charles Dehner was over, one man did not give up, Tony Lamanna. La- manna owns a Bloodhound that participated in the primary SAR to find Mr. Dehner. A September 20, 1993 article in the Times-News had this quote, “I will find him,” said Lamanna, 44, while taking a break from hiking the same area he has 59 times before.” Tony had made it a mission to recover Charles’ remains. He claimed that his Bloodhound had picked up a faint scent in the past but never found anything. A dowser has also made e orts who claims the body is in the area and just hasn’t been located. According to the Bonner County Sheri , Charles has never been found.

Profile Points: German, Water, Point of Separation, Berry Picking, Canines

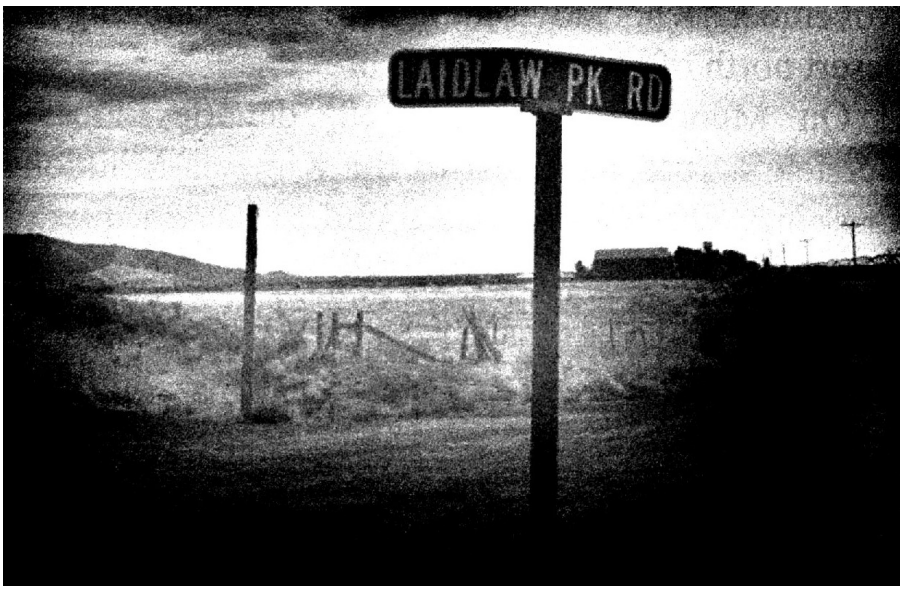


Richard Willis Bendele Missing: 11/17/1996, 6:00 p.m., Laidlaw Corral

Age at disappearance: 29 years

Thirty-five air miles north of Burley, Idaho, is a small dirt airstrip called Laidlaw Corral. It is a desolate region that most would believe

is not fit for humankind. There are no trees, a few scrub bushes, and, believe it or not, deer. Laidlaw is fifteen miles south of Craters of the Moon National Monument. Readers of past books will recognize that location as the spot where two highly educated women vanished under very unusual conditions. If how they disappeared didn't attract interest, where they were found might have. They were located far into the rocks in an area nobody believed they would go. Nobody believed they'd travel that far because of extreme temperatures and the major fact that their two small dogs had been left behind in the blazing cab of their vehicle. They loved the dogs like they were their kids. One physician died, and a retired teacher perished. Craters of the Moon National Monument is truly hell on Earth, and it is fitting that the story of the women is in Missing 411: The Devils in the Detail.

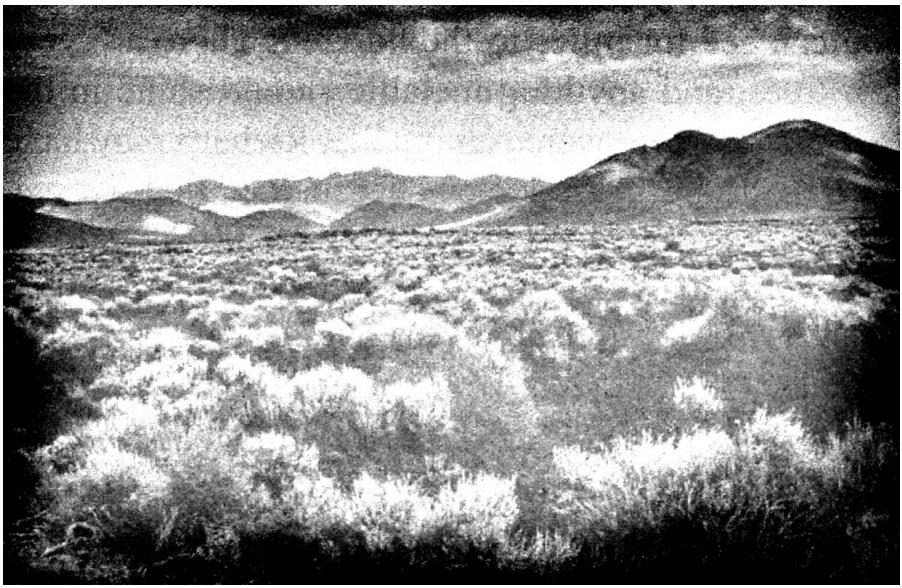


Richard Bendele was a twenty-nine-year-old supervisor for the J. R. Simplot Company in Heyburn, Idaho. He was described as happy-go-lucky and a very good guy. He was a married father of two with a life in transition. He was getting a divorce and trying to keep his days busy with sporting activities. He loved fishing and hunting. He grew up with his dad taking him to the desert north of Burley for hunting. He knew the area well and enjoyed the flat land for hunting. This is one of the very few stories of a hunter hunting a desert environment.

On November 17, 1996, Richard drove his blue Chevrolet fleet-side short-bed pickup up into the Laidlaw Corral area. At 6.00 p.m. he

called his mom on his cell phone. He told her the battery was going low, and he had it attached to the cigarette lighter in his truck. He told her that the truck had broken down, and he wasn't even sure where he was and couldn't describe it adequately for her to understand. Richard's mom called the sheri at two in the morning on November 18 and advised them to start searching the desert north of Burley for her son.

On Monday, November 18, deputies located Bendele's truck northeast of the Kimama-Minidoka Crossing. The vehicle was found to have a quarter tank of gas. It was found inside of Blaine County, and they agreed to take the lead on the search. They looked throughout the area of the vehicle and could not find a trace of Richard. In an undated article in the Times, they explain what searchers did on November 19: "Searchers Tuesday were aided by three tracking dogs and late in the day a J. R. Simplot helicopter. The weather lifted enough for a search plane to get in the air. But that lasted only about 15 minutes before the weather socked in again forcing the plane to give up the search."



Search Area

By now you are starting to realize weather often comes into an area and inhibits search e orts in these cases. The canines could not pick up a scent, and the search was canceled after four days. Various articles confirm that a combination of rain and snow hampered search e orts

late Monday and Tuesday. The high point in the search saw thirty-five SAR members in the field from Blaine, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties. Richard was never found.

In many of the cases I write about, you may be able to come up with a rational explanation for why the people are not found. This is one incident that I don't understand why Richard's body hasn't been found in the last twenty years. The land is slow rolling, and you can see for miles to the horizon. There are very few trees, and anything metallic should shine in the bright sun. There were rumors that Richard may have tried to drop out of society because of his divorce. Nobody in his family buys that idea. Think about that theory. There would be no more isolated and inhos-pitable place to design a disappearance. There's no place to hitchhike, no ranch houses, no resources, and no ponds or lakes for water. He would've been tens of miles from the nearest phone or occupied residence. The other main point that blows this theory up: Richard was scheduled to be paid the following week. If you were going to run o , I think you'd wait for your cash.

Here is a reminder of the profile points that are nailed on this case. Four dog teams could not locate a scent trail. This is very odd considering there wouldn't have been other people or vehicles in the region to contaminate the area. Bad weather inundated the search area shortly after Richard vanished. In many of the cases I've written about in my last book, people called loved ones on their cell phones and seemed confused and did not know where they were. Considering that Richard grew up hunting in this region, it is surprising that he couldn't tell his mom where he was.

After twenty plus years, it is highly unlikely that Richard's body will ever be found, especially since he disappeared in an area that is rarely traveled on foot. In 2002 Richard's wife petitioned the Idaho Superior Court got and received a declaration that Richard was deceased, thus allowing her to obtain benefits for her children. The ironic part of a death ruling is that Richard is no longer legally considered missing.

Ruben David Felix

Missing: 02/23/1997, Shoshone, Idaho

Age at disappearance: 2 2'6", 32 lb. Shoshone is approximately seventy miles south of Sun Valley and is near the center of Idaho. This case is included in this section because it matches other cases in the state of two-year-olds missing from home yards.

Ruben Felix was with his father at the family ranch on the outskirts of Shoshone. His dad states that he momentarily left the boy in their front yard drinking from a bottle. When he returned the boy had

vanished.

Detectives initially believed that Ruben might have drowned in a nearby river. Multiple searches of the river failed to produce Ruben's body. Other o icials a iliated with the case believe that Ruben may have been abducted, but no evidence to support either theory has been found.

Location where Ruben Disappeared

Readers need to recognize the similarities between the three cases of missing two-year-olds (Barnett, Blakeley, and Felix) from rural yards throughout western Idaho. Investigators cannot ignore the similarities among these disappearances.

Joshua Stau er

Missing: 05/07/1999-4:00 p.m., Downey ID

Age at disappearance: 3 years

Rodney and Melanie Stau er took their son, three- year-old Joshua, with them to visit his grandparents on the outskirts of Downey, Idaho, twenty miles south of Pocatello and twenty miles north of the Utah border.

Sometimes in these stories, it's not perfectly clear how fast children vanish. In this May 14, 1999, article in the Deseret News is an explanation how fast Joshua went missing: "One minute he'd been in the yard playing. The next minute he was gone. The search had started immediately." Imagine this was your child, and he vanished that quickly. You would be yelling and screaming and expecting an answer. It was May 7,1999, at about 4:00 p.m. when Joshua disappeared from his grandparents' rural yard. The parents couldn't locate the boy, and they weren't hearing anything in response to their calls.

The Bannock County sheri was called. He made a request for Bloodhounds, airplanes, equestrians, and foot searchers. There was a limited response at the beginning of the e ort, probably because people thought the boy would be found quickly. At the end of the first night, the group had swelled to over two hundred. Searchers were getting concerned for the boy's welfare because temperatures were dropping below freezing.

At the beginning of the second day, the sheri was getting very concerned at the lack of clues and the lack of reaction from Bloodhounds to any scent. Local law enforcement called the FBI and asked for help.

Planes and helicopters with FLIR were not seeing anything from the air, and ground teams were covering lots of area but not finding clues of value.

On May 8, 1999, searchers were continuing to move farther from the grandparents' home and started toward a large hill. A May 10, 1999, article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune had this description of what was found: "Rescue teams followed footsteps that eventually led them to the boy a full five miles from the Williams home. Bannock County Sheri Lorin Nielsen said finding Stau er was a miracle. It is unusual for a child that age to walk so far, though the exercise may have kept him alive, he said." A searcher approaching the hill thought he saw something near the top that was red. Joshua was wearing a red shirt. The team had climbed the hill and found the boy lying near the top, curled up under a juniper tree.

Joshua was flown by helicopter to Bannock Regional hospital, where it was determined he was dehydrated and had a slight case of exposure.

Summary

Joshua was found far outside the range of where 95 percent of all three-year-olds travel in hilly or mountain terrain. He was also found uphill on top of a mountain, a very unusual location for a small boy who had traveled that lengthy distance.

It seems that the more cases we find, the more common it becomes that children disappear from relatives' homes over their own.

Joshua recovered and was eventually released from the hospital.

Robert Swaner

Missing 06/27/2001, Stanley

Age at disappearance: 65 years

The area of Idaho where this incident happened is called the Sawtooth

National Recreation Area, man aged by the United States Forest Service. This region includes the Sawtooth Wilderness, Hemmingway-Boulders Wilderness, Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness, with a total area of 756,000 acres that include 700 miles of trails and forty peaks over 10,000 feet. This area is known for its beautiful landscapes. In addition, the recreation area is a favorite for back-packers and fishermen.

This story is about 65-year-old Robert Swaner, who was from Bellevue. He was known for a free lifestyle that had him taking o into the mountains in the blink of an eye. He often did not tell people where he was going or when he was coming back. He loved the mountains and went whenever he had the opportunity. He had two major medical issues; he was pre-diabetic and manic-depressive.

On June 27,2001, Robert's brother realized he was missing and reported him to the local sheri . The report was placed in the statewide computer system with a particular emphasis on finding Robert's vehicle.

The Mountain Express newspaper of August 1, 2001, had these details about Robert, "Swaner's vehicle was found July 12 on Fishers Creek Road, on the western side of the White Cloud Mountains in southern Custer County. A search of the area began the following day and was abandoned July 18." The six-day search by the Custer County Sheri and local search and rescue was di icult, considering it was 15 days since Robert was last seen. In addition, the trail was cold; witnesses camping in the area had probably moved on and were unable to be interviewed. Thus, the ability to find leads about where Robert had gone was almost non-existent.

Robert's brother had told authorities that he was a strong hiker, loved the woods, routinely left without telling people where he was going, and truly enjoyed the sights in the mountains. He had worked various mines in Idaho in his younger years and knew the threats and dangers that the high peaks posed.

There was no new information about this case until a September 7, 2001 article in the Times-News that had these details, "When 65-year-old Robert "Stubby" Swaner drove north from Wood River Valley, across the Galena Pass and into the remote Fisher Creek area 13 miles from Highway 75, a mystery began that nearly three months later still hasn't been solved. Swaner vanished and hasn't been seen since. Questions of his whereabouts have been raised by his family and by searchers. But none have been answered. " Later in the same article

was this, “The mystery is compounded, however, by the fact that no trace of Swaner has been found in an area that’s popular with hikers, campers, and horseback riders.”

Search and rescue personnel and first responders that have spent time in the backcountry know that when you see crows and birds of prey huddling in a small spot, this means there is something deceased nearby; this is an easy method to find the body and is never ignored by serious searchers. Unfortunately, in this case, a scene such as this was never reported; his remains have never been located.

Profile Points: Granite- Disability-Never Found

Ronald S. Gray

Missing: 09/19/2008, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho Age at disappearance: 62

If anyone could live in the outdoors and survive brutal conditions, it was Ronald Gray. Ronald had a military background in the United States Marines with tours of Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, where he had to eat bugs and snakes to survive. When he

came back from the war, he became a local police o icer in Massachusetts. He then spent most of his career as a Massachusetts State Trooper, where he eventually retired after twenty-six years. He made his home in North Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Ronald loved the outdoors and had made two previous trips to the same area of Idaho to hunt elk and deer. He knew the landscape, and he trusted the hunting guides who established his camp. Gray was the type of hunter who enjoyed the challenges of hunting alone, which is what he did on September 19, 2008. He had met with the hunting guides, who told him where they stashed extra supplies in the woods. He carried a global positioning unit to find the supplies and establish his exact location at any time. Ronald told the guide service that he would meet them on September 23, which he never kept.

One of the most extensive searches in the Nez Perce National Forest history was undertaken for Ronald Gray by the Idaho County Sheri 's O ice. Even members from the state police in Massachusetts came to Idaho to assist in the SAR. Ron was known to last be in a location near Mirror Lake Ridge. Helicopters, horses, and ground teams scoured the area, but nothing was found. The Idaho National Guard played a major role in the SAR e ort. There was a rumor that he had made a radio call that he had hurt his knee, but this was never confirmed.

Searchers were so dedicated to giving Ron a bright light to follow; several teams stayed out all night with a glowing fire burning in the hopes he'd see it and follow it to safety. The total search area was said to be enormous. Aircraft had been looking for any signs of a fire that Ron may have started; none were located.

Thunderstorms inundated the search area while SAR teams were in the area.

There was a handful of former law enforcement that traveled to Idaho to search for Ron. One former o icer who worked with the captain stated that Ron was not politically correct, and he tells you what he thinks and likes everyone. Wow, that's the kind of commander I always enjoyed working under.

SAR o icials have stated that there were at least 50 hunters in the area they were searching, and the hope was they would contribute to the eyes looking for Ron.

A large section of the 8,500 square miles of the Nez Perce was searched for two weeks. Again, nothing was found. On October 15,

2008, the search for Ronald Gray was terminated. Since the termination, hundreds of hunters and searchers have continued to look for Ronald, but they have never found any of his property or Ronald.

The Idaho County Sheri made a statement near the Ron Gray SAR that they had a reputation of being 90% successful in the searches. So either I am a fortunate researcher in finding unusual cases or the multiple cases of missing people in Idaho County that I researched, few had been found.

For over a decade, Ron Gray has been missing; it's hard to understand how the hundreds of hunters and hikers that have passed through the search area have not found boots, rifle, backpack, etc.

Ron Gray has never been found.

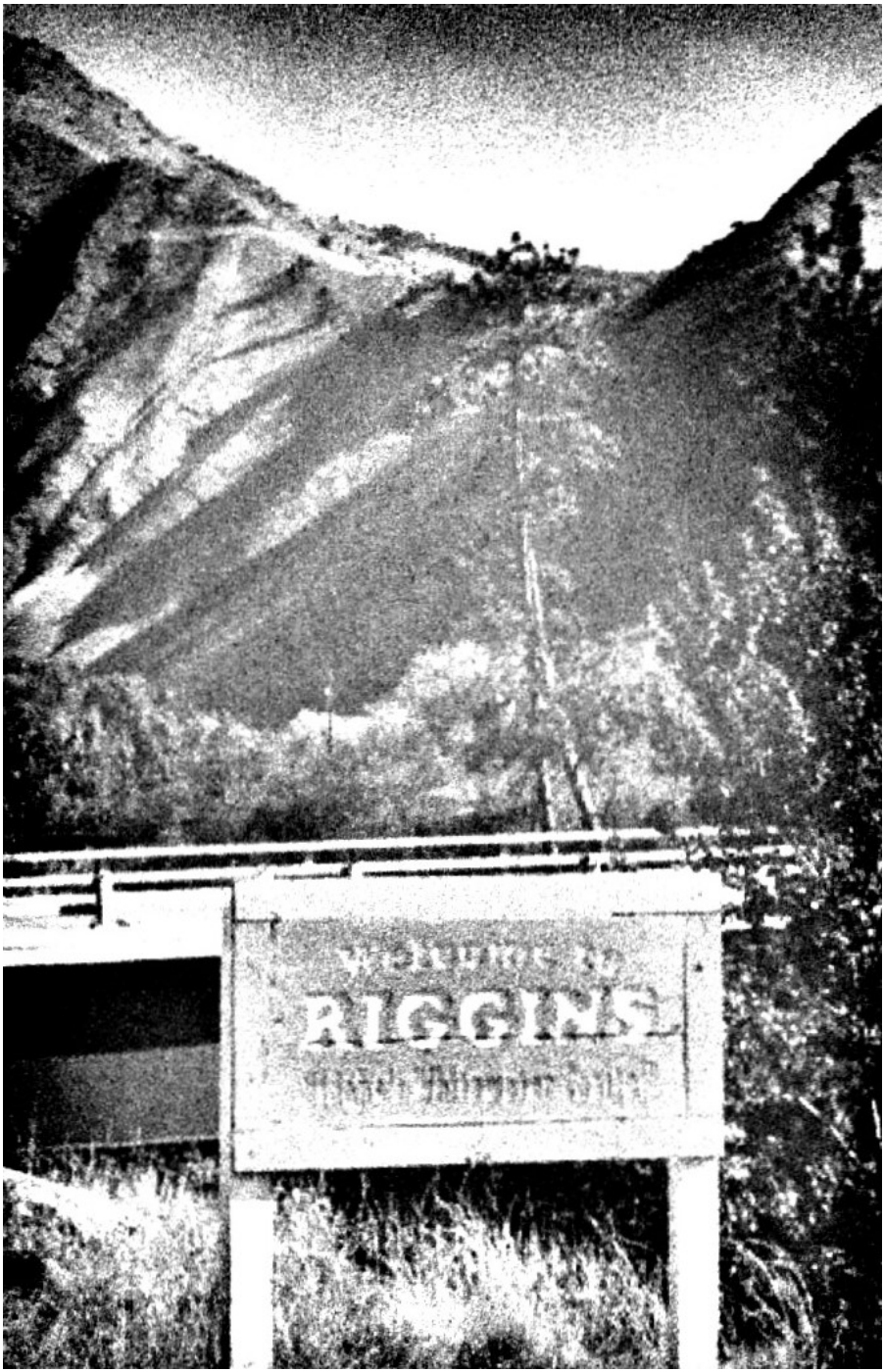
Profile Points: Elk Hunter- Disability- Never Found- Cluster Zone

Todd Ho lander

Missing 09/27/2010, Seven Devils Area, west of Riggins, ID

Age at Disappearance: 39 years

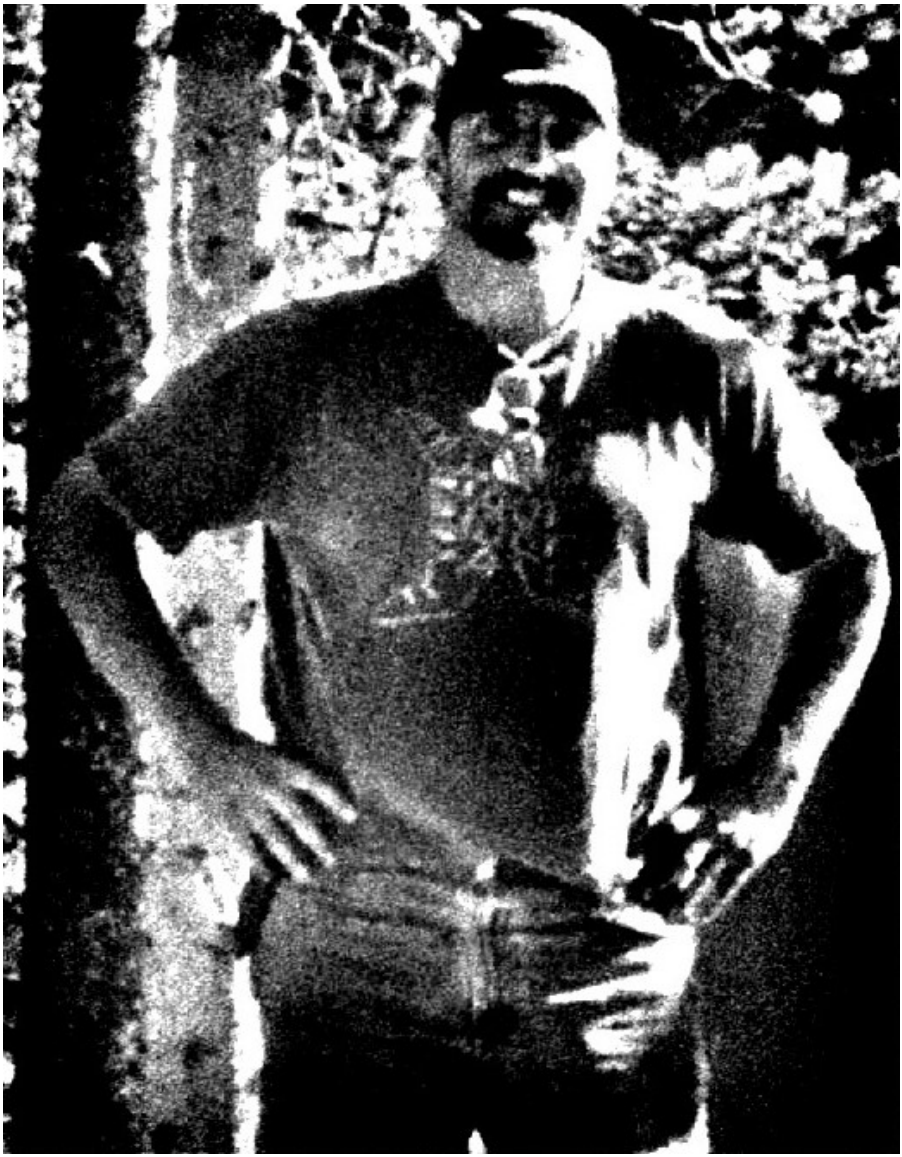
After researching thousands of missing person cases, the location where Todd Ho lander disappeared is a classic location for people to vanish. High elevation, dozens of small lakes, little vegetation, and lots of exposed rock and dirt seem to be the ideal topography for people to disappear permanently.



In preparation for writing this story, I went to Riggins and drove the route Todd did from his hometown into the mountains. I can see why Todd lived in Riggins, a gorgeous little city on the banks of the Salmon River that is known as the white-water capital of the world.

As you enter Riggins from the north, a sign on the southern end of the city on the side of the road indicates a street that gives access to the seven Devils Area. Once we turned into the valley, we immediately saw a dozen deer, which set the stage for the trip. The road starts wide and paved and quickly gets narrow, turns to dirt, and is steep and muddy. Don't expect a quick trip up the mountain; this is a slow, gorgeous ride that will take you to the top of the hills to the west of Riggins. If you stay on the route, you will be rewarded with epic views.

On September 27, 2010, Todd was out for a four- day hunt with his black Labrador Ruby and a friend. Todd had complained about having a sore knee and decided to split up with his hunting partner. He advised his friend that he would travel downhill, and they would meet at the river. They never met up. A witness reported seeing Todd at MacCa ey Cow Camp, approximately one- half of the distance down the mountain. When Todd didn't arrive at the meeting location, his friend called for assistance.



The United States Forest Service and local county sheri 's department went into the woods and searched for Todd. The e ort to find Mr. Ho lander lasted fifteen days. Searchers didn't find Ruby, Todd, or any evidence of where the pair might have been. The search e orts were suspended on October 15, when other hikers found Ruby on the eastern slopes of Seven Devils Mountain. Searchers went back into the area, and after several days, they again found nothing.

Todd vanished in the Hells Canyon Wilderness, on the eastern slope area of Seven Devils Mountain. Notable geographic names in this area

are “He Devil Lake,” “Purgatory Lake,” “Devil’s Throne,” “Seven Devils Lake,” etc.; you are getting the point. In the “Missing 411” books, I have stated that there appears to be a correlation between the names of geographic locations and where people vanish. Places have names for a specific reason; why were these named as such?

Todd Ho lander left behind two small children and his wife, Julie. An October 5, 2010, article on NWCN.com had the following statement from his wife about Todd’s relationship with Ruby: “She and Todd are inseparable, so if he did go up, that would explain why we haven’t seen any sign of the dog down where we were searching.” The dog was eventually found, but that was the only thing located. In the same article, Julie makes a statement about the search’s success: “They found no traces of anything, nothing. It’s ba ling.”

One small point that I think is underreported in Todd’s case: his knee injury. In many cases where people vanish, they have some disability. Todd’s disability was his knee, which caused him to branch o from his partner (Point of Separation) and disappear.

On April 27,2010, a hunter was in the seven Devils area, specifically in Bernard Creek near the Snake River, and found human remains. He also found backpacking supplies and a camera. The camera was turned over to the Idaho County Sheri who developed the film and found it was Todd.

The sheri ’s o ice took a boat to the area and recovered the remains and hunting equipment. They showed the supplies to Todd’s wife, who positively identified them as belonging to her husband.

The remains made their way to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for DNA analysis who positively identified them as being Todd Ho lander.

Profile Points: Point of Separation- Canines-Water- Hunter

Amelia “Amy” Linkert Age at disappearance: 69 years

Jo Elliott Blakeslee Age at disappearance: 63 years

Missing: 09/23/2013-Unk, Craters of the Moon National Monument

Left- Jo Elliot Blakeslee, Right- Amelia Linkert

This is one of the most unusual disappearances I've ever researched. The victims of this tragedy and the circumstances of their deaths do not come together in any logical order. It would appear that these two ladies shouldn't have been where they were.

I didn't know much about this monument before I started this story. An archive search for information on Craters of the Moon found a March 20, 1939, article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune that made a few fascinating points: "Few have ever heard of the midget tribe, that many believe inhabit the three 'Lost Valleys' of the crater region." Later in the same article was more clarity: "Probably one of the most interesting takes is that of the tribe of dwarfs, thought by the Indians to have inhabited the vast lava rock regions. The midget tribe was accused of having caused the death of many a brave warrior, who wandered into the lavas in search of game, never to return." Each time I research a new location, I try to find some of the local stories that you may not see posted in the local parks' headquarters.

Amy Linkert retired from Lowell Middle School in Idaho where she was a longtime teacher. She purchased a trailer and wanted to travel the country visiting parks. Jo Elliott was a graduate of the University of Washington Medical School. She had retired from the US Navy Reserve as a commander, and her medical career included private practice in Washington and Idaho. She most recently was a physician at the Snake River Correctional Institute in Ontario, Oregon. Both women were extremely religious and attended church regularly.

On September 19 the women parked their trailer at the KOA campground in Arco and drove to Craters of the Moon National Monument and the Tree Molds Trailhead. The pair had told friends that they would be back in Boise on September 21. When Jo didn't report to her job at the correctional facility, they reported her as missing on September 23. The formal search for the women started on September 24. Searchers found the women's truck parked at the trailhead with their two Labradoodle dogs in the back and their purses and cell phones were in the front seat.

There was an initial big push to search for the women. On September 25 they found a body. It was initially reported that it was Jo Elliott Blakeslee and then days later, the ID was changed to Amy Linkert. There was never any clarity as to why there was an initial misidentification. There was a comment in a September 26 article on KTVB.com: "Dan Buckley, the monument's superintendent, says that the Idaho Army National Guard and Butte County Sheri 's Office located the body by helicopter around two miles southwest of Tree Molds Trail Head parking lot in a very rugged and inaccessible area of the lava field."

You read that correctly, "in a very rugged and inaccessible area." If it was inaccessible, how did she get there? It should be stated that these women were not athletic distance hikers. Their own families made statements to the press that the pair would never leave their dogs more than an hour in the truck, and they wouldn't hike far. Park o icials and the sheri were at a loss to answer why Amy would've left the trail.

The search continued for Jo. Helicopters, eight canine teams, the Civil Air Patrol, and ground teams were all working in a grid-type pattern looking for the woman. On October 1, there was a curveball thrown at the search. The national park was shut down because of budgetary issues. It wasn't long until there were emergency funds made available, and ten searchers went back into the grid.

The trailhead for Tree Molds isn't far from Devil's Orchard Nature Trail. This entire area is an unbelievable array of some of the most rugged and dangerous areas to hike o -trail of anywhere in the national park and national monument system. If you looked at the countryside, the thought of leaving the trail would never enter my mind. It's too rough, too sharp, and overall, too dangerous.

Also, around the October 1 time frame, inclement weather hit the area and continued to slow search efforts. The bad weather continued for several days and grounded helicopters. It was also during this time that Jo's uncle made statements that he didn't know if the women had been abducted or were victims of some other crime.

By October 12, cave specialists had been inside the park and were searching lava tubes. The sheri stated there had been three to four thousand hours dedicated to the search and ten thousand miles of hiking had taken place.

Helicopters went back into the air when weather permitted. They were searching in a slowly growing circle from the location where Amy had been located, believing that Jo would be somewhere in that immediate area.

On October 23, twenty-eight days after Amy was located, searchers found Jo's body. A helicopter was working the area of the lava fields and made the discovery from the air. An October 23, 2013, article on KIVI.com had this explanation: "A helicopter search of the lava fields

north and west of the Tree Molds Trail early Tuesday evening yielded the location of Dr. Jodean 'Jo' Elliott Blakeslee. Her body was located approximately one mile from the location where searchers earlier found the body of her hiking partner Amelia 'Amy' Linkert."

The finding of Jo's body raises more questions than it answers major concerns. This finding means that air searchers continued for twenty-eight days and, working inside out from the location of Amy's body, never found Jo. With numerous di erent helicopter crews and pilots assisting in the search, it is extremely di icult to understand how the body wasn't found sooner, if Jo was there. Several of the helicopters had FLIR— this highlights body heat on the ground. Apparently FLIR never reacted to Jo's body.

The families of the women made several statements to the press that they could not understand why or how the women would've entered the lava fields. They felt that both would have stayed fairly close to the truck to take care of their dogs. The location of Jo's body was described by park superintendent Dan Buckley in an October 25 article on Magicvalley.com: "'She was in a nasty piece of lava,' Buckley said. 'It's dangerous and treacherous out there.'"

Eight separate canine teams failed to locate either of the bodies. If we follow standard logic, Jo's body was in that field for at least twenty-eight days. Cadaver dogs trained to smell dead bodies never found her.

Summary

It's now March 2014, and the coroner investigating the cause of death to Dr. Blakeslee. Toxicology results take no more than six weeks, and autopsies are usually completed immediately after a body is located. I filed a FOIA against the park service immediately after both bodies were found, and I still have not received a copy of the report. The National Park Service (NPS) is claiming they can't complete the report until they have a cause of death from the coroner. The NPS did say that they could not see any injury on either woman that would've caused them to be incapacitated.

I think it's quite a coincidence that several cases I have highlighted in this book involve an excessive delay by coroners in coming to a finding of death. This is not normal and could be considered very unusual.

Readers, look at the profile photos of Jo and Amy and then look at the

photo of Hildegard Hendrickson from Washington. Hildegard disappeared from Wenatchee, Washington, on June 8, 2013, and has never been found. Each of the women had short hair and large builds. In past books I have written that it appears that many of the women who vanish have very short hair and, from the back, could possibly pass as a male.

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Grider

Missing: 06/01/2015 at 10:30 a.m.—Heyburn State Park, ID

Age at Disappearance: 69 years I have written extensively about older people who have vanished and never been found. It’s an odd paradigm, because older people aren’t going to climb extraordinary heights or travel lengthy distances. Many of these people disappear in areas they’re familiar with, such as their own neighborhoods. The fact

that bloodhounds can't find a scent for these victims seems highly unusual.

Jackie and J.T. Grider had a good life in their hometown of Bakersfield, California. The couple had a cabin in Heyburn State Park along Chatcolet Lake in Idaho. The lake is located on the south side of Coeur d'Alene and extends approximately ten miles south. It is one solid body of water that has several names. The couple's home was on the far southern end.

Jackie and her husband, J.T., realized she had started to process her thoughts a bit slower. Some may call it early dementia, but she was able to take care of herself and followed a daily routine. She started her morning by leaving their cabin in the one hundred block of Chatcolet Center Road and taking a walk around the lake on Chatcolet Center Road. She would leave at approximately 9:30 a.m. and return at 10:30 a.m. Jackie had other physical ailments, however; she was deaf and walked with a distinct limp.

On June 1, 2015, Jackie left for her walk as usual at 9:30 a.m. At 11:00 a.m., she had still not returned, and J.T. was getting nervous. By early in the afternoon, she still hadn't returned, and he called law enforcement.

The Benewah County Sheri was the lead agency on the search. They brought in multiple canine teams, helicopters with FLIR, ground searchers, ATVs, and equestrian groups. The sheri hit an absolute roadblock in the search. Rumors circulated that locals may have seen Jackie late in the afternoon the day she vanished, but this was not confirmed.

A June 24, 2015, article in CDA Press explained that eighty-two-year-old psychic Carmen Murray offered to assist. The article stated, "T saw her,' Murray said Tuesday. 'She's scared, she's terribly, terribly afraid.'" The psychic didn't know her location and couldn't provide any evidence to her theory, which was discussed later in the article: "Murray believes that Grider, 69, got disoriented and was abducted, despite the fact there is no evidence to support the theory."

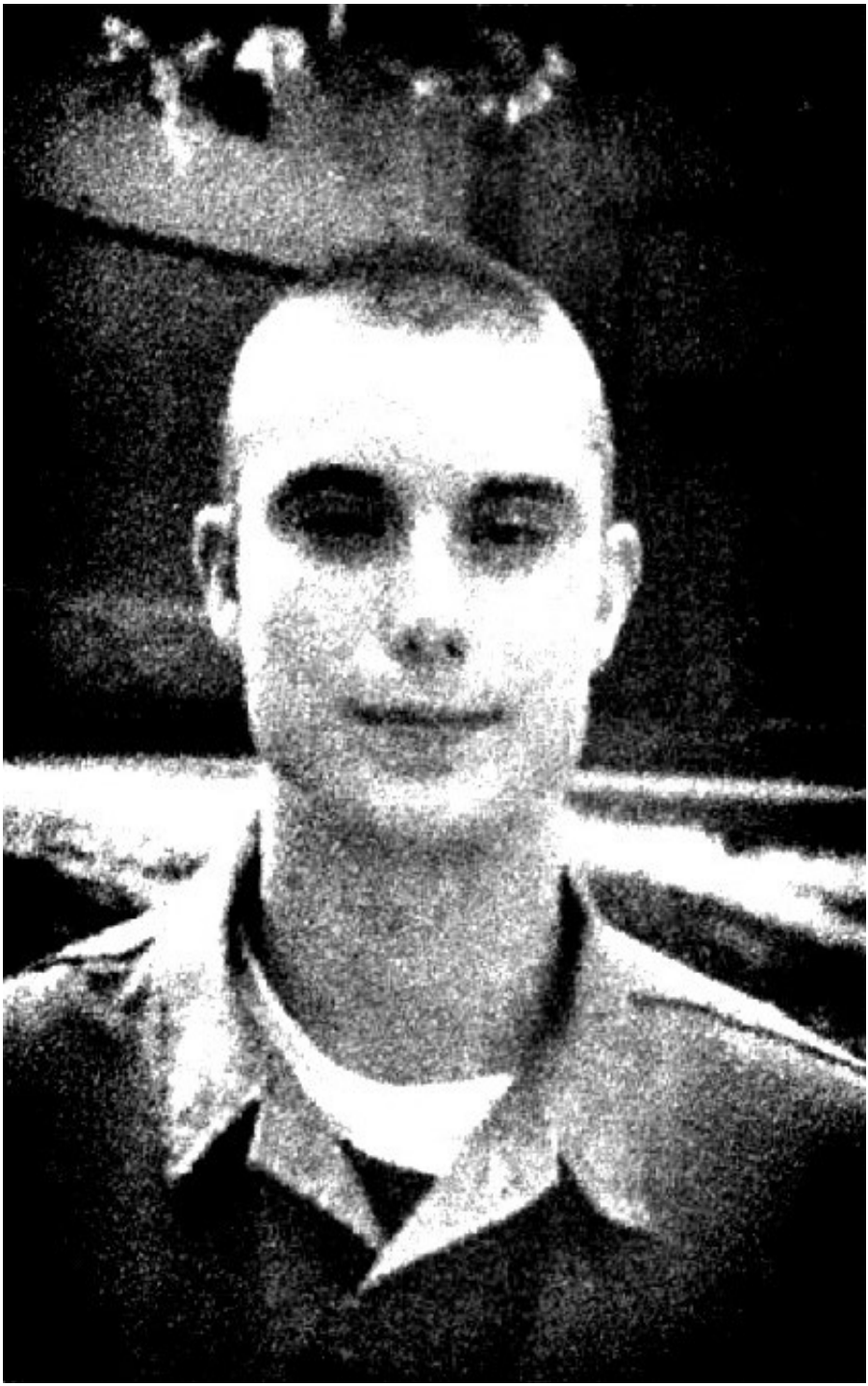
The sheri 's o ice terminated the search for Jackie after three days, claiming they didn't have any leads or information to follow up on. J.T. said many times that he wouldn't leave Idaho until he had his wife.

Buzz Grider, Jackie's son, related his feelings on what happened in an

interview for the April 11, 2016, edition of KTVB.com: “Tt’s agonizing to just try and think what’s happened,’ Grider said. T mean, you could go over and over and over a million scenarios. Hell, she could have been abducted by aliens, but I mean, that’s just as plausible as anything else right now.’” I have lost track of how many times I’ve documented similar responses from family and SAR members over the improbable disappearance of a friend or family member. When a body starts to decompose, the odor is stifling and travels for great distances. How can it happen that Jackie has never been found and cadaver dogs never picked up a scent?

This case sat as unsolved until March 19, 2016. A man was walking his dog on the outskirts of Heyburn State Park and in the area of the 1700 block of Conkling Park Road when he saw something unusual and contacted the sheri . The Kootenai County Sheri found articles near the body indicating it was probably Jacqueline. The remains were sent for forensic identification, and it was confirmed that it was Ms. Grider. Numerous news articles stated this area had been searched numerous times during the initial 7-10 days looking for her and they had found nothing. There was not a public news release on the cause of death or details about the specifics of the crime scene.

Profile Points: • Disability, Water, Canines, FLIR



Dylan Parker Missing: 01/12/2016—p.m.—Osborn, ID

Age at Disappearance: 18 years

Thirty miles east of Coeur d'Alene is the small town of Osborn, the centerpiece of this case. This location is on the fringe of a geographical cluster zone centered on Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

In the evening hours of January 12, 2016, Kellogg resident Dylan Parker had been attending a party in Osborn. He left the party and made his way to a gas station, where he called his mom and asked her to pick him up. As his mom drove toward him, he called back and asked, "Where are you, Mom?" Dylan's mom said he sounded panicked. When she arrived at the gas station, Dylan was nowhere to be found. She drove through the area but couldn't locate him.

On January 13, 2016, Dylan still had not arrived at the house, and a missing-person report was in the works with the Shoshone County Sheri O icials conducted a search of the area around the house having the party and found nothing. Dylan's mom had already driven all the roads in the area the night he went missing. It was snowing, and the streets were tough to drive. The party was approximately one mile from the gas station, up a street called Two Mile Road. This area was supposedly extensively checked.

On January 21, 2016, KHQ.com ran a story about how Dylan's body was found: "The grandmother said two people on AT Vs were looking for Dylan on Monday night when one of the ATVs wrecked. On Tuesday, those searchers went back to the scene of the crash to retrieve the ATV and found Dylan's body there." To me, this is an interesting scenario. The searchers had been there once already and never saw anything. They return to the scene and find the body. While that portion of the story is interesting, it doesn't reveal the unusual scene of what was really found. The majority of articles about this case refused to print the truth, which is sometimes the case in small communities.

On February 9,2016, an article appeared on KHQ. com with the heading "Where is the Truth: Investigating Silver Valley Teens." The article chronicled three deaths of area kids. To me, the most unusual and compelling case was Dylan's. Here is what the article stated about the young man:

"I don't deny my son died of hypothermia," Rupp said. "What I don't understand is how he got up there? There were no footprints that day. No tire tracks. There was nothing. How did he get up there?" Dylan was also found without pants or boots. Experts say it's common for

someone experiencing hypothermia to remove their clothes. Dylan's body was covered with injuries consistent with stumbling through the woods. But what has troubled Roose [a former coroner's o ice investigator] about Dylan's autopsy report is what is not there. "There were no injuries to his feet, and this was a boy walking in the woods," Roose said. "I know it's been argued away that a lot of the scratches on his body were because he was staggering around in the brush and trees, yet the bottom of his socks were clean and no injuries to his feet. Yes, he froze to death. Yes, he was inebriated, under the influence; I won't dispute any of that. But I don't believe the boy wandered up all on his own and laid down and died."

Dylan's body was found on a hillside opposite where the party was located and in a desolate location. Roose's statements are almost identical to things I wrote in Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence. I'm glad an authority in government admitted that something unusual is happening. I would refer readers to page 319 of Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, where I write about a twenty-four-year-old male student who vanished. The area around the party he was attending was searched, and he wasn't found. Days later, his body was found without shoes in a pond. A very keen detective made an observation as the body was removed that the student's socks were perfectly clean, yet the area around the pond was muddy from recent rain. Nobody could understand how the student had entered the pond without getting his socks dirty.

Well, in the rural area of west central Idaho, another competent investigator was putting the pieces together in Dylan's case. David Roose, the deputy coroner for Shoshone County, Idaho, was charged with researching dead bodies. He knew Dylan had grown up in the area where he disappeared, so the idea that Dylan had gotten lost and wandered o didn't make sense. On February 9, 2016, KHQ aired a report on Dylan's disappearance and death, noting that his body had been found nine days after he vanished in a lonely gully with scratch-type injuries. There were no injuries or marks to his feet, his socks were clean. There were no footprints in the snow or tire tracks on the roadway. Roose stated in the interview, "I don't believe the boy wandered up that ravine and died. I'll go to my grave believing that." David Roose no longer works for Shoshone County, and I have no idea why. I believe his comments are enlightening and intriguing.

I'm not an idiot, and I won't shy away from the obvious: If Dylan did not have injuries to his feet, his socks were clean, and there were no tracks in the area, there can be only one conclusion. Dylan Parker would've had to have been dropped into his location, and the scratch

injuries may have been sustained by his falling through the branches of the trees.

There have been many rumors about this incident. I've heard everything from suicide to homicide, but facts are really the only thing that matter in a court of law. If David Roose doesn't believe the young man wandered up that ravine, I believe him.

In past books and lectures, I have copied a statement that I first read from detective Kevin Gannon: "local reports for local consumption." To me, this means to keep the report simple and keep a lid on anything suspicious to avoid alarming the community. I believe David Roose understood that something very unusual had happened to Dylan, and local o icials didn't like it.

Profile Points: Point of Separation, Missing Clothing/ Shoes, Hypothermia, No Tracks

Jack Thomas

Missing: 06/17/2016—Atlanta, ID Age at Disappearance: 66 years

Since the start of my research on missing people I have been an advocate for everyone going into the wilderness to carry personal locator beacons (PLB). These devices are the size of the old flip cell phones and cost between $150 and $300. There are a few di erent types, but in general, when activated, they send a signal from the device to a satellite, which relays the signal to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA contacts the local law-enforcement jurisdiction for that area and advises them they have an emergency acti-vation. That jurisdiction then dispatches a SAR team to the GPS coordinates they were sent by satellite. There are PLBs that are built into satellite phones; I carry one. There are also stand-alone PLBs that just send a signal. Others allow users to send a satellite message to a friend telling them your

status—this is the type of transponder Jack Thomas was carrying. I couldn't get many details on Mr. Thomas's past other than that he lived in the area in Nampa, Idaho. He was married and a father, and very little else about him was released to the public. It appeared that the family wanted to stay out of the public eye during his search.

On June 13, 2016, Jack drove to the Queens River Trailhead seven miles outside of Atlanta, Idaho. He told friends and family he was doing the three-day Queens River Loop Trail. He left on June 13 with the intention of being out of the woods on June 16. On June 15, he notified his family through a satellite message via the transponder that he was OK. He was last seen on the trail between Fern Falls and Elk Lake just past Pitchfork Creek and was heading towards the trailhead on June 16. This was the last contact anyone had with him. When he didn't contact family members on June 16, they reported him as a missing person to the Elgin County sheri .

SAR o icials determined that Jack was o the trail based on his last transmission. He was o the Idaho Centennial Trail and was supposedly returning to the Queens River Trailhead. There was quite a bit of controversy about the GPS

location Jack last broadcasted, as some thought he was on the south side of the Payette River, even though the trail was on the opposite bank. This area is very steep, rugged, and boulder filled.

Elmore County took charge of the SAR e ort and immediately called for additional assistance from outside agencies. They received additional support from Elmore County SAR, Twin Falls Sheri and SAR, Idaho Mountain SAR, Life Flight, Idaho Air National Guard Helicopters (two UH-60s), Two Bear Air Montana, Atlanta Fire Department, Ada Ariel Sheri s Fixed Wing Plane, Blaine County SAR, US Forest Service, and more. The search went for ten days and was terminated on June 27 with nothing being found, an unbelievable fact considering the circumstances.

When Elmore County pulled out, the family went to social media to raise money and hire the Jon Francis Foundation. Ten years earlier, the Francises had lost a son in the exact Sawtooth Mountains where Jack vanished. They orchestrated another comprehensive search that placed tracking canines with GPS collars, ground teams, and other searchers into the field. A multiday e ort by the foundation failed to locate Jack.

Every article describing the hiker stated that he was an extremely fit and thoroughly competent backpacker with years of experience. I would add also that he was smart; he was using the proper technology, which should've found him. This is the first time I have ever written about anyone using a PLB that transmitted his or her location who wasn't found.

I can attest from personal experience that the unexpected can happen in the wilderness. In 2016,1 was in a remote area of Australia filming a segment on a missing person and carrying a camera rig over my shoulder. It had rained the night before, and I slipped going over a boulder. I saved the camera but broke my left leg. I was very fortunate to have been with someone in whom I have great trust, and she helped me get out. In my younger days, I traveled into highly remote regions without a satellite phone or transponder—stupid. My guess is that 95 percent of everyone I write about could be alive today if they'd been carrying some type of satellite transponder.

I don't have a good answer on what might have happened to Jack. Here is one interesting data point, however: I do not know of anyone who has disappeared while carrying a firearm and a PLB (though I did write an entire book about people who disappeared while carrying a firearm, Missing 411: Hunters).

Profile Points: Point of Separation, Water, Boulders and Canines

Connie Johnson

Missing 10/15/2018, Fog Mountain Age at disappearance: 76 years

Terrence Woods

Missing: 10/05/2018, Penman Mine

Age at disappearance: 26 years

In my years of researching missing people, I have rarely found something as unusual as the disappearance of Connie Johnson and Terrence Woods on October 5, 2018. There is a 50-year age gap between the two victims, and the di erences in the stories are wide. However, the one consistent element in these cases, both disappeared in the same general geographic area and were reported to a small rural Idaho county on the same day four hours apart.

The first story I will cover is Connie Johnson, a former teacher, United States Forest Service Ranger, and mom. Ms. Johnson was a former

high school teacher and a retired backcountry ranger at the Moose Creek Ranger station on the Selway River in Idaho.

On October 2, 2018, Connie worked as a wilderness camp cook for hunters and was employed by Richie Outfitters. The camp was established on Fog Mountain 14 miles west of the same ranger station where she had retired, Moose Creek. The camp could only be accessed by horseback or hiking; it was remote. Connie had routinely guided people through this wilderness and knew the area exceptionally well. The October 27, 2018 edition of the Spokesman Review had a timeline of the events surrounding Connie's disappearance, "She was last seen on October 2, when the hunters left the camp for a while. The remote area is accessible by horseback or foot. On October 3 the hunters reportedly had radio contact with Johnson, Idaho County Sheri Doug Giddings said, but they were unable to understand what she was saying. When they returned to camp on October 5, Johnson and her dog, Ace were gone. An intensive search was launched, involving aircraft from the U.S. Air Force and Idaho National Guard, the Clearwater County Backcountry Helicopter Rescue Team, along with several teams of tracking dogs and searchers on foot."

There was a formal ten-day SAR for Connie followed by several searches by Richie Outfitters and even a hired private searcher, all finding nothing.

There was no additional information about this incident until October 23, 2018, when Connie's dog, Ace (Border Collie), walked into the Moose Creek Ranger Station airstrip and up to a pilot. The October 30, 2018 edition of the Idaho County Free Press had this information, "According to Undersheri Gorges, Ace came onto the airstrip, located 14 miles from where Johnson was working at a hunting camp. He was reported found in good condition, "not hungry or struggling in any way," and was checked over by a vet. Last week, Sheri Doug Giddings stated that the dog was verified by the family as belonging to Johnson. The family worked with True North Search Dogs, a nonprofit organization out of Helena, Montana, to transport Ace back to the search area in an attempt to alert on Johnson." Unfortunately, the dog did not take searchers back into the mountains, and Johnson was not found. Readers can refer to the story of Todd Ho lander, a missing hiker I have written about who also vanished in Idaho. He was with his dog in the Seven Devils area when he disappeared. His dog returned and was discovered 30 days after he vanished. There were several posts on Facebook and other social sites from Richie Outfitters. Newspapers reported inclement weather hit the region during the search. Forward-Looking Infrared Radar on Air Force Helicopters

never found anything, as did multiple canine teams that participated. Nevertheless, the formal and subsequent searches were comprehensive and thorough.

If there was one person I have documented in this book that should not have vanished, knew the region intimately, had survival knowledge, and was in good physical condition, it was Connie Johnson. I can only recall four other retired or on-duty rangers that have ever disappeared; three of the four have never been found. The October 12,2018, KLEWTV had these details about Connie, “This isn’t some pilgrim in their first rodeo, “Chris Adkins, Connie’s colleague, said.”

“This is a woman who spent the last 25 years of her life on foot literally, in the wilderness alone doing her wilderness ranger work.” Those are strong words supporting an educated and experienced lady that knew hose woods.

There have been several disappearances in this region of Idaho. This cluster has many cases where the people were never located.

I just wish that Ace could talk.

As the Idaho County Sheri was getting a call about missing person Connie Johnson, they were also being notified about the disappearance of Terrence Woods, a 26-year-old film crew member from Maryland. In reality, Connie’s case was the second one of the day for the Idaho County sheri ; the first case follows.

Case #2 Terrence Woods

Terrence was a graduate of the University of Maryland from the Merrill College of Journalism. He had traveled the world making documentary movies and was now employed by RAW Productions from the United Kingdom, making a film segment on the Penman Mine, 20 miles south of Orogrande and 28 miles southwest of Connie Johnson's disappearance. The crew was filming in the area of the mine when something unusual happened as is described in the October 11, 2018 edition of the Idaho News, "He was last seen near the Penman Mine near Orogrande. Workers on the scene told the sheri 's o ice he had been acting strangely. As the crew was wrapping up, he approached a steep drop, "he went over the edge, and there were several people watching him including one of the local guys, and they said he just decided to take o , and he shot down that hill," said Doug Gidding." Crew members tried to follow Terrence but fell behind and lost him."

Terrence Johnson was reported. missing at 5:30 p.m. on October 5; Connie Johnson was reported missing at 9:30 p.m. Part of the time delay is the remoteness of the hunter camp that Connie had been working.

I did a bit of searching about the Penman Mine. It was a location where gold and silver were mined. A search of RAW Productions site showed they did a show called, The Missing, Jungle Gold and Gold Rush. They had a 12-person production team on-site at the mine when Terrence disappeared. Crew members stated they had no idea why he suddenly took o running down the hillside.

I went to the location where this incident happened. It is extremely remote with resources. There is a very narrow, rough four-wheel-drive road that leads from the small town of Orogrande to the site. The location consists of several broken-down buildings and a caved-in mine.

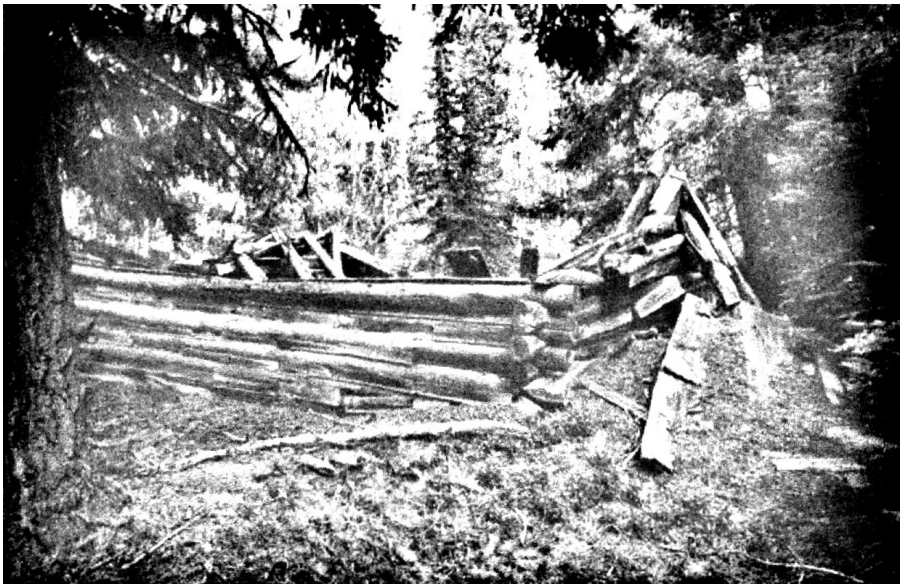
Search teams scoured the Idaho wilderness for a week, looking for Terrence. Multiple jurisdictions contributed to the search e ort that included aircraft, dog teams, and rain-hampered tracking e orts, according to the October 13, 2018 edition of the East Idaho News.

Just after getting to the bottom of the hill where the mine is located, you enter the small town of Orogrande. I stopped at one of the few

homes, introduced myself, and was immediately invited inside to discuss this case. The man stated that he was living at his residence the night this disappearance happened, and the film crew came down the hill to their home looking for assistance. He stated that the men claimed one of their parties ran o into the rooms. Why the Woods ran was unclear, but it was obvious they needed help.

My contact (Wished to remain anonymous) said they contacted the resident deputy in Elk City, then got onto their ATVs and headed into the wilderness. The witness said it was very dark and had just started to rain.

The first search and rescue o icial on the scene told me that they heard nothing, it was very dark, and it was now raining hard. He said he spent a few hours walking the area, calling Terrence's name, determining it was too dangerous and drove home.



My witness stated that the crew he met was very odd. He claimed that none seemed energetic to get out and search for their friend. However, he did clarify that one of the witnesses to Terrence running o was a local that rented the ATVs to the film crew. He stated that if that friend had not validated what happened, he's not sure he would've believed the story. The witness said he went to the scene with the sheri and other searchers for several days, and they found nothing. Helicopters, ground teams, canines, and many other resources were allocated for searching for Terrence; nothing related to him was ever found.

The area where Terrence vanished is not an area that Terrence is going to walk out of without others seeing him. Additionally, it was raining the night of the disappearance and got bitterly cold. Terrence was not dressed for inclement weather, and the thought he survived multiple notes under the presented conditions is minimal.

Per my witness, Terrence's family did hire a private detective to investigate the circumstances of the disappearance. Unfortunately, nothing has ever been released about what the investigator's work revealed.

What could have possibly made Terrence run into a wilderness zone where he had never been before?

The disappearances of Connie and Terrence are bizarre, make no sense, and are unsolved. Despite massive search e orts and a heroic

attempt to work multiple cases simultaneously, the Idaho County Sheri did everything possible to locate these people. Both of these incidents are part of a much larger cluster, refer to map. In a very eerie coincidence, the photo of Connie shows her wearing a Lochsa Historical Ranger Station T-shirt, referring to the location of Fred Vinneau.

Profile Points: Cluster Zone- Weather-Lack of a Scent Trail- Lack of Tracks

Gordon White

Missing 06/10/2020, 4:00 p.m. Orofino

Age at disappearance: 78 years

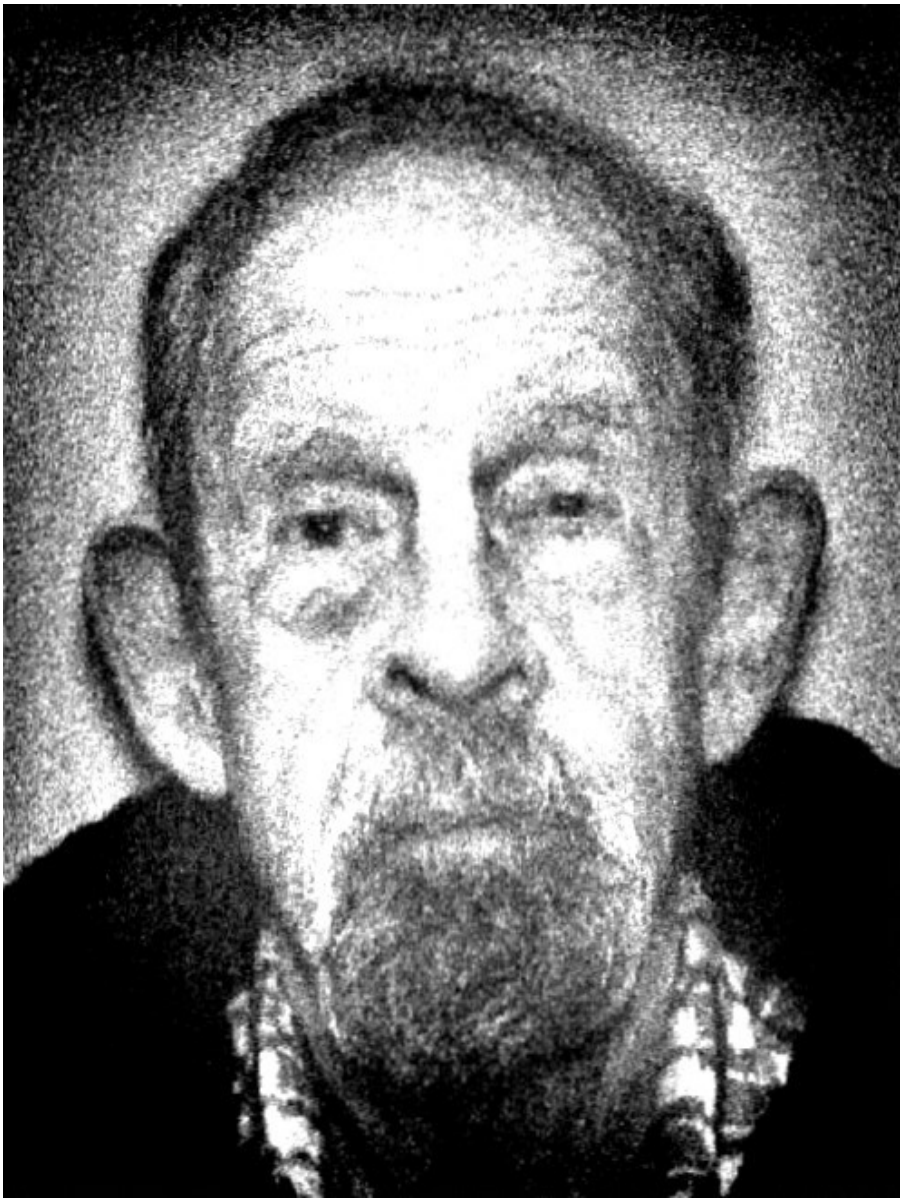
I want readers to pay special attention to this and the following case.

If you believe in coincidences, then these disappearances may not a ect you. However, if you follow our work, you will immediately see the linkage in these incidents. For example, a retired law enforcement o icer who follows my work sent me the Gordon White and Jon Walton cases telling me to look into them as he thought they were odd.

The setting for both cases is the small city of Orofino, sitting on the precipice of a massive wilderness to its east. The massive Dworshak Reservoir is north of the city and meanders an impressive 54 miles to the east. Orofino is the county seat for Clearwater County and also sits on the banks of the Clearwater River.

It is incredible that just behind the properties of both missing people (Walton and White) sits Dworshak reservoir. The dam was completed in 1973, stopped the North Fork of the Clearwater River, and was authorized for flood control and hydroelectric power. One of the significant parts of the reservoir is that the shoreline east of the dam includes some of the wildest areas of Idaho with beautiful woods, forests, and associated wildlife.

Gordon White spent a significant portion of his life living in the east side of the San Francisco Bay Area. He attended Laney College and focused on electrical engineering. Later in life, Gordon obtained a specialized Federal Communications License for wireless communication. He moved to Idaho several years ago and loved the outdoors, wildlife, and beauty of the Orofino area.



Gordon White

On June 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., Gordon got onto his ATV into the back area of his property in the direction of Dworshak Reservoir. When the retiree didn't return later in the night, his wife, Vir-ginia, called neighbors and searched. Friends and family searched into the night and then decided to call law enforcement at 11:00 p.m. His wife stated that he did have dementia. Deputies quickly arrived at the White residence (7003 Dent Bridge Road, Orofino), and gathered the facts from his wife. They understood that Gordon rode his ATV back into the woods behind the residence at 4:00 p.m. with the understanding he would be back before dark; he never returned. The deputies did a quick search of the area and then called for search and rescue. This June 13, 2020 article in KHQ.com had these details, "Early the next morning, members of search and rescue found the four-wheeler on Gordon's property. It was not crashed or out of gas, and Gordon was not with it. Dog teams arrived, as did a Two Bear Air helicopter, and searched the area around the ATV for several hours. As of June 13, the search was still underway, and more than 70 people were at the scene, including six dog teams. According to the sheri 's office, approximately 600 acres of di icult terrain had been grid searched. Gordon did not have a cell phone or wallet with him when he went missing." One of the more impressive features of the Clearwater County search is that searchers stayed in the woods overnight looking and found the ATV at 4:45 a.m. Many SAR teams pull out of the woods at night.

After several days of searching, the Clearwater County Sheri Chris Goetz said that Gordon had previously lived in Kuna, Idaho, and requested that Ada County Sheri s go to his past property to check and see if there was a problem have been any sightings in that area. Ada County Sheri s responded and found nothing. One of the last statements made by law enforcement appeared in the June 23,2020 edition of the Lewiston Tribune, "Goetz said it was unlikely White could have made it to Dworshak Reservoir; however, a marine deputy was stationed along the bank to keep watch." It was one and a half miles from the back of the White property to the reservoir through rugged country and thick bush.

After eleven days of thorough searching from land, water, and air, the SAR was terminated.

Clearwater County committed significant time and a huge e ort to

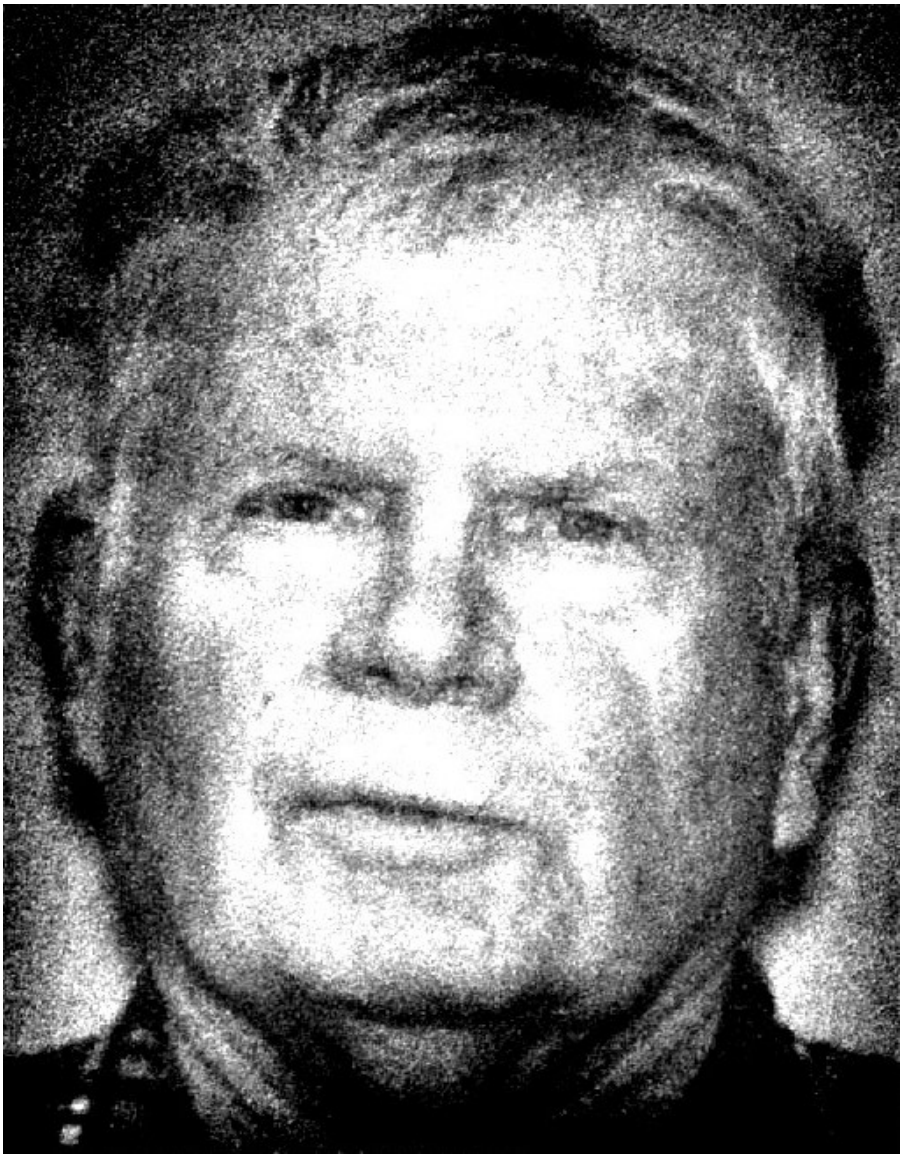
locate Gordon. They had Two Bear Air fly from Kalispell, Montana, to assist in finding the man. In addition, search dog teams from Clearwater, Lewis, Latah, Valley, and Asotin Counties participated in the SAR e ort.

The possibility that multiple dog teams from five jurisdictions failed to locate Mr. White is troubling.

The last comment Sheri Goetz made about Mr. White's disappearance appeared in the June 18, 2020 edition of the Lewiston Tribune, "It's just not making sense, as to where he may have gone."

The sheri stated that Gordon White's case would stay open until he was located.

Profile Points: Dementia- Mini Cluster- Water- Lack of Scent Trail- Lack of Tracks



Jon Walton

Missing 09/29/2020, Orofino

Age at disappearance: 75 years

You just finished reading the story of Gordon White. One hundred and eleven days and six air miles from his property, 75-year-old Jon Walton vanished from his home. Jon Walton and his wife Kristen lived at 1618 Whiskey Creek Loop Road, just four air miles from Dworshak

Reservoir. Most of the parcels on this road and White's land are anywhere from 3-20 acres in size. These are both very rural areas.

On September 29, 2020, at approximately 5:30 a.m., Jon Walton left his residence with the assumption that he was going target shooting or hunting at the back of his property. When the man didn't return by noon, his wife, Kristen, got friends and neighbors in the area to search their property. After several hours of looking, Kristen called the Clearwater County Sheri .

At 5:30 p.m., deputies arrived at the Walton residence and started their investigation. The first group of deputies arriving on Whiskey Creek Loop did a hasty search, found nothing, and requested SAR. This October 2,2020 article in the countrynewsconnection.com had these details, "As of Friday, October 2, Jon still has not been located after extensive searches of his property. After several search dogs, ATVs, horses, ground searchers and Back Country Medics with a helicopter have been used in the search." Additionally, the article stated that several trail cameras were installed in the area and checked periodically to determine if Jon was lost and wandering the area.

Jon Walton has not been located.

Summary

The disappearances of two men over 75 years old from properties just six air miles apart and 111 days between incidents is a very peculiar set of circumstances. Behind each of the properties is one of the larger reservoirs in Idaho. Several canine teams that participated in each search could not track the victims despite being on the scene early in the investigation.

On October 14, 2020, Clearwater County Sheri Chris Goetz presented to County Commissioners on both cases, a very unusual thing to do. I'm sure that the community of Orofino was concerned, and the facts surrounding both incidents and the commissioners requested a presentation by the sheri . No new details were revealed in the meeting, just a re-hashing of what had been done and that both cases were still open.

In past books, I have classified two missing cases in close proximity and time to each other as mini-clusters. Again, it's something that needs to be monitored and understood. There are too many facts in these incidents that should raise the investigative interest of local law

enforcement.

Mr. White's wife had stated that her husband had a minor case of dementia. I have written about these cases in the past. Unfortunately, many times dementia patients seem to have the ability to escape canine detection and fail to leave tracks. There was no mention of Mr. Walton having any disabilities or illnesses.

Profile Points: Mini Cluster- Water- Lack of Scent- Lack of Tracks- Never Found

Fern Baird

Missing 10/19/2020, Prairie Creek Trailhead, Ketchum

Age at disappearance: 62 years

In October of 2020, Fern Baird was an active 62-year-old living in Park City, Utah. She was born in New York and got her bachelor's degree from Long Island University in Public Administration. She got married and lived in several states, California, Ohio, Tennessee, and finally Utah. Fern had an internet presence, and as of this writing, her real estate company, Powder Beach Realty, was still standing with her photo. She was a licensed real estate broker and sold yoga-related products through Lucky Star sales. In Fern's spare time, she volunteered for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization.

Every ounce of research I did about Fern indicated that she was very active, loved hiking trails, and was very fit. One article mentioned that she routinely did 5-mile hikes above 7,000-foot elevation.

If you have never been to Park City, Utah, you need to go. It is a very picturesque ski town with an old west type downtown. It would be a great place to call home, and I understand why Fern loved her city.

On October 19, 2020, Fern made her way to the Prairie Creek Trailhead north of Sun Valley, Idaho. There are many similarities between Park City and Sun Valley, both are ski towns, and both are beautiful. She traveled ten miles north from Sun Valley on Highway 75, turned west on Prairie Creek Road, and drove her blue 2018 Subaru Crosstek 1.5 miles until she arrived at the Trailhead. Fern signed into the logbook at 1 pm on October 18, 2020, but did not put a destination.

Fern Baird was reported missing to the Blaine County Sheri 's O ice on October 22. Deputies found her vehicle at the Trailhead and started to

form search teams. The sheri had located the hotel that Fern had stayed in and had received a CCTV photo of what she was wearing just before she disappeared (see insert).

She was wearing a grey jacket, black pants, black fanny pack and appeared to be out for a day hike. Law enforcement also knew that Fern could cover many more miles than the average hiker because of her fitness level. The search focused on three di erent sets of lakes, Prairie, Miner, and Norton. One side note to this story, when I was doing the initial research, I found the lakes where SAR was looking and noticed there is a lake called Big Lost Lake just southwest of Norton Lakes.

Fern Baird

The search for Fern started almost immediately after they located her vehicle. Blaine County initially brought in three di erent canine teams, multiple National Guard helicopters, two drones, motorcycles, and several equestrians and hikers. Several articles about the incident explained that searchers were challenged by freezing temperatures and snow that was dropping at higher elevations.

Near the end of the 12-day search, the Blaine County Sheri announced they were o ering a $25,000 reward for finding the hiker. The original SAR was termed on November 4 after they made one last major attempt to find the lady. Blaine County and the National Guard helicoptered seven canine teams back into the wilderness to look for Fern; they found nothing.

Detectives from Blaine County did do an extensive investigation into who might have been on the trail at the same time as Fern. They got the trail log and attempted to contact everyone who had signed in during that time frame. Some of the writing wasn't legible, and their e orts to locate everyone were not successful. They had made a plea to the public to please contact their agency if you were in this area during the disappearance.

When I looked at the area that was the focus of the search, I was stunned to see that it matched dozens of other locations I have mentioned in the past. It was a high-altitude location with dozens of small bodies of water surrounded by granite. I can't explain why these locations harbor many missing people, but it's a fact, and now you can add Fem to the list.

Profile Points: Canines, Water, Granite

Sex-Missing Person Date Missing • Age

M-James Vaughan 08/20/1883 • 18mos

M-Patrick McKenzie 07/26/1893 • 32

M-Charles Ritter 12/27/1900 • Unk

M-Lawrence Marsh

(Son of)

06/15/1907-6:00 p.m. • 19 mos

M-J. Mitchell 01/11/1909 «Unk

M-George Smith 11/04/1911 *45

M-O.T. Lindstrom 11/21/1913 «Unk

M-Charles Patterson 10/23/1919-60

F-Daughter of Pulsipher 10/11/1922, 6:00 p.m. «2

M-Ruben Kleweno 11/30/26’27

M-R.H. Robertson 10/06/30’ 55

M-Dailey Hamerly 05/25/33-2:00 p.m. • 2

M-Frank Lobears

(son of) 06/25/33 • 7

M-Bobby Rush 07/21/35-4:00 p.m.’2

M-Grover Wray 11/05/38 *27

M-Jim Amos 10/09/43 • 16

M-Dan O’Brien 10/29/43 • 60

M-Joe Schaefer 10/22/46 • 50

M-Walter Bonnicksen 03/27/48 • 65

M-Judd McWilliams 09/15/48 • 82

M-Eddie Grant 10/05/49-PM • 22

M-Walter Pope 10/05/49, 5:00 p.m. «45

M-Bryan Warner 10/01/51*40

M-Bryan Warner 10/01/51 • Unk

M-James Madison 09/11/52, 6:00 p.m. «67

F-Catherine Maynard 01/19/53 • 38

M-Allen Lamphere 11/20/53 *67

M-Lemar Pepmuller 11/21/53*22

M-Nate Perry 04/11/54*71

M-Charles Miller Jr. 10/10/54*25

M-Richard Hatke 08/15/55, 4 p.m. *2

M-Ronald Hu ord 10/01/56*28

F-Rose Jewett 08/11/57*95

F-Shirley Hunt 06/27/58, 11:15 a.m. *8

F-Charlene Zahm 06/30/59-8:00 a.m. • 5

M-Ted Nalman 09/07/59 • 14

M-Fred Vinneau 10/06/60 • 84

M-Fred Dorsey 10/21/61 • 19

M-Richard Martin 10.19.63*21

M-Martin Woodward 11/17/63, 2:00 p.m. *22

M-John Treadway 09/27/67* 19

M-Ray Jones 09/07/68 • 39

M-Lowell Smith 10/05/68 • 60

M-Louis Sandoval 09/06/69 • 66

M-Je Hodgson 06/10/74, 5:30 p.m. • 11

F-Gayla Schaper 06/29/79 • 28

M-Clyde Bowman 11/08/81 *57

M-Richard Ray Barnett 08/31/82 *2

M-James Schroeder 09/25/82, 3:00 p.m. *23

M-Robert Acree 07/05/83, 8:00 p.m. • 4 M-Ryan Hoe liger 01/11/84-5:30 a.m.-

7:00 a.m. • 2

F-Tina Marie Finley 03/07/88 • 25

M-Jack Huckabay 10/10/88, a.m. *78

M-Joshua Lewis Kern 07/14/90-6 p.m. «2

F-Susan Adams 09/30/90-Unk • 42

M-Casey Holliday 10/14/90-10 a.m. • 11

M-Brian Sines 11/22/91 -29

M-Charles Dehner 07/16/92,2:00 p.m. • 74

M-Richard Bendele 11/17/96, 6:00 p.m. • 29

M-Ruben David Felix 02/23/97 • 2

M-Joshua Stau er 05/07/99-4:00 p.m. • 3

M-Robert Swaner 06/27/01 • 65

M-Ronald Gray 09/19/08 • 62

M-Todd Ho lander 09/27/10 ’ 39

F-Jo Elliott Blakeslee 09/23/13 *63

F-Amelia Linkert 09/23/13 • 69

F-Jacquelyn Grider 06/01/15 at 10:30 a.m. •

69

M-Dylan Parker 01/12/16—p.m. • 18

M-Jack Thomas 06/17/16*66

M-Terrence Woods 10/05/18-5:30 p.m. • 26

F-Connie Johnson 10/05/18’76

M-Gordon White 06/10/20 • 78

M-Jon Walton 09/29/20 • 75

F-Fern Baird 10/19/20*62

Totals:

60 Men

13 Women

Total: 73

Victims Found: 35- 48%

Not Found: 38- 52%

# of Females Not Found: 6-

Earliest Case: 1883

Most Recent: 2020

Year Span: 137 Years

Approximate # of Days: 50,000

Age of Victims:

Youngest: 19 Months

Oldest 95 Years

Age with most Victims: 2 Years (1 female, 7 males,

Total- 8)

Closest Other Age Group: 22/ 29/ 60 (9 Males, 3 in each year)

Case Anomalies

Case #1

Date: October 5, 1949

Eddie Grant (22 years) and Walter Pope (45 years) disappeared ninety miles apart. Eddie was found deceased, Walter was never found.

• The disappearance of Grant and Pope happened 64 years to the day

from the Woods

and Johnson disappearances.

• Pope disappeared in a very remote and isolated area.

• Grant went missing in a cluster close to the Connie Johnson case.

Case #2

Date: October 5, 2018

Terence Woods (26 years) and Connie Johnson (76 years) disappeared in the same county, hours apart on the same day. Both were never found.

• Terrence and Connie disappeared 30 miles apart.

• Both were deep in the woods and far from a population base.

• Two people disappearing on the same day in the same county stretched the resources

of Idaho County Sheri , and they couldn't send the number of searchers to each location if they were working only one missing case.

• Both cases involved extensive searches by public and private resources. • Connie's dog, Ace, did arrive at a United States Forest Service airport miles from the

scene days after the report.

• Both Johnson and Woods went missing in their own cluster zones.

Case #3

Date: September 23, 2013

Jo Elliott Blakeslee and Amelia Linkert went to Craters of the Moon National Monument, a property managed by the National Park Service.

• Two women over 63 years old missing in the same day

• Missing in a treacherous area

• Left their dogs in their truck on a hot day

• Friends and relatives didn't believe they would leave their dogs in those conditions

• Both women became lost and never made it out of the lava field.

• Both victims had advanced college degrees

• Victims were not found for weeks

1 **Imagine the statistical odds of what I just presented to you in this Case Anomaly section!

Major Calendar Anomaly

June 27

• The date June 27 is not during a hunting season

• June 27, 1958, Shirley Hunt (8 years) disappeared and was later found alive.

• June 27, 2001, Robert Swaner (65 years) vanished in a remote area and was

never found.

• June 27, 2016, Jack Thomas (66 years) was hiking in a remote area with a personal locator beacon, transmitted his last position, and was never found. October 1

October 1, 1951, Bryan Warner (Unknow Age) disappeared on Fog Mountain and was never found

• October 1,1956, Ronald Hufford disappeared (28 years) disappeared in the

Buffalo Humps Wilderness and in the same area as Terrence Woods The following calendar days have two missing cases: June 10, 2020 & 1974 September 7, 1959 & 1968

September 23, 2013 (2 cases same day)

September 27, 1967 & 2010

October 1, 1951 & 1956

October 19, 1963 & 2020

November 21 1913 & 1953

**Parts of October, November, and December may have an increase in missing cases because more people are in the woods during hunting season. Times of Disappearances:

Through 12 years of research and documenting 1500 cases, the average time of a disappearance has remained the same, between 4-5:00 p.m.

Conclusion:

The dates, the cases, and the facts lead to just one conclusion, something very unusual is happening in our wilderness. If you have taken the time to read this book and it has initiated interest, please take the time to read the other ten books dealing with identical cases in sixteen countries.

I sincerely appreciate you reading our books.

You can write to me anytime at Missing411@ya- hoo.com

****Pl$_{ease}$ follow us twice weekly when we post new videos on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/user/canammissing- project/videos

Our missing person website:

https://www.canammissing.com/page/page/8396197.htm

MISSING 411 OVERVIEW

Documentaries:

Missing 411 (The Movie)

This 4K 91-minute documentary chronicles the disappearances of five children from the wilds of North America. Les Stroud is one of the show's stars and plays an integral role in explaining the possibilities of

a young child traversing miles in the outdoors.

Released: May 2017

Executive Producer: David Paulides

Duration: 1 Hour 37 Minutes

Available on Amazon.com

Missing 411- The Hunted

This is another 4K documentary produced by David Paulides.

The film describes the disappearance of a series of hunters under very unusual circumstances. We go on scene and travel into the woods and spend a week in a location where many unbelievable things have happened to campers and hunters.

Released: 2019

Executive Producer: David Paulides

Duration: 1 Hour 37 Minutes

Available on Amazon.com

Books

Missing 411: Western United States

The eastern and western books were originally one book. I split and published them as two books, which I released one month apart.

Published: February 2, 2012

367 pages

Covers the western United States and Canada

Missing 411: Eastern United States

Published: March 5, 2012

358 pages

Covers the eastern United States

Missing 411: North America and Beyond

Published: February 28, 2013

488 pages

New stories of missing people from the United States, Canada, Australia, England, France, Iceland, and Indonesia

Missing 411: The Devil is in the Detail

Published: April 18, 2014

446 pages

New stories from the United States, Canada, Australia, Borneo, Ecuador, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Austria. There is an extensive analysis in the back of the book of cases from the first four books, including statistics.

Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence

Published: July 22, 2015

398 pages

This book exposes an entirely new set of unusual disappearances with young men found in bodies of water. Cases are documented from the United States, Canada, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Missing 411: Hunters

Published: June 21, 2016

362 pages These are stories of armed hunters who disappeared under very unusual circumstances. Cases are documented from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Azerbaijan. (

Missing 411: O the Grid

Published: September 16, 2017

401 Pages

Entirely new stories from the United States, Canada, and six other countries. Tables, lists, and analyses from past books are in the conclusions. Statements from SAR personnel are highlighted.

Missing 411: LAW

Published: November 1, 2018

375 Pages

New stories that cover land, sea, and air disappearances from five countries and research behind six different triangle zones where unusual disappearances have happened.

Missing 411- Canada

Published: October 2019

353 Pages

**Includes a LARGE Cluster Map from British Columbia

The book reveals our research on eleven di erent provinces, territories, etc., from Canada.

Missing 411- Montana

Published: October 2020

286 Pages

**Includes a LARGE Cluster Map of the State of Montana.

Readers have stated that this book has some of the most unusual cases they have ever read.

**This is the first book in the State Series.

All items are available online from our website. We do not sell on Amazon or any other online service. Most books are $24.95 plus shipping and handling directly from our website store. We do ship internationally.

Maps:

Missing 411 North America Cluster Map

Missing 411 Cluster Map of Montana

Missing 411 Cluster map of British Columbia